

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

737. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH
SURJEET:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN;

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, authorities have decided to award the work of preparing designs and detailed engineering drawings and manufacturing equipments for entire second stage, except coke ovens and coke quenching of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to a Private firm M/s. Dastur and Company (P) Ltd.;

(b) whether Public Sector undertaking Mecon and Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi which has better and long experience in both the spheres such as preparing design and other drawings and manufacturing the equipments and machineries for steel plants due to their participation at Bhilai, Bokaro as well first stage of Visakhapatnam, have not been considered for this work;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for ignoring the Public Sector Undertaking;

(d) what is the basis for giving such a highly technically important work to a private firm which has no experience; and

(e) whether Government propose to permit this firm to bring in foreign collaborators for this job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) M/s. Dasturco are the Principal Consultants of the project. However, some items of stage-II engineering work have been awarded to Mecon and the Soviet agencies. The rest will be done by Dasturco.

(b) Mecon have been entrusted with the work of providing basic design and detailed engineering services

for Coke Ovens and associated Dry Cooling Plants. Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi has been entrusted with the work of designing and manufacturing of equipments worth about Rs. 250 crores.

(c) and (d) It is not correct to say that M/s. Dasturco do not have experience. They have been Consultants to the Department of Steel since 1955. They were appointed as consultants for preparation of the detailed Project Report for the Visakhapatnam Steel Project in 1973. They have done some important work in steel consultancy within the country and abroad. It has been the policy of Government to give consultancy work in steel sector to both Mecon and M/s. Was-turco.

Ce) No, Sir.

Visakhapatnam Alumina Plant

738. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tot of preliminary work has been done in setting up Visakhapatnam Alumina Plant; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons that it has not been set up so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) A feasibility report has been prepared by Soviet Consultants for the setting up of an Alumina Plant in Andhra Pradesh with a capacity of 6—8 lakh tonnes per annum. The report has been appraised by the appraisal agencies of the Government. The Soviet side is yet to give a detailed report, which will define the various stages in the construction of the plant, phasing of expenditure, maximum scope of supplies of equipment and services from the Soviet side and estimated cost of each stage, amount required for local expenses year-wise and state-wise, possible sources of