

Scheme in the State Annual Plan for 1980-81.

Setting up of an Intelligence Agency for the Civil Supplies Department

1314. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up an Intelligence Agency under his Ministry to identify hoarders of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The matter is being examined.

Loss due to delay in Customs clearance

1315. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in customs clearance for import of spares for the drillship chancellor-seville engaged on hire purchase basis by Oil India for off-shore drilling is causing a loss of 30,000 dollars a day to Government on hire charges; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Oil India Ltd., who are drilling the offshore well through foreign contractors in the Mahanadi Basin, are incurring a daily expenditure of this order. Some of the days are inevitably lost for various reasons including non-receipt of critical spares by the contractors in time, due to Port/Customs clearance through the port in Calcutta and Paradip. There have been no objections as such from the Customs authorities who have sought and obtained routine

clarifications required under the procedures laid down for appraisal and clearance of goods through Customs.

The Customs authorities both at Calcutta and Bhubaneswar are taking all possible care to ensure expeditious clearance of goods imported by Oil India for their off-shore drilling purpose. The Oil India Ltd. have also been in close contact with the Customs authorities for prompt clearance of the consignments.

Setting up of Shore-based Steel Plants through foreign collaboration

1316. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with regard to the setting up of Shore-based Steel Plants in the country through foreign collaboration;

(b) whether there is a proposal under Government consideration to set up a second shore-based Steel Plant with foreign collaboration;

(c) whether Government have received two foreign collaboration offers made respectively by M/s. Davy International, a British firm and by M/s. Mannesman Demag, a West German firm; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to take a decision regarding the setting up of the second Shore-based Steel Plant in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government have already sanctioned the establishment of an integrated steel plant with a capacity to produce about 3.4 million tonnes of liquid steel per annum at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,256 crores at Visakhapatnam. The first stage of the plant is to be commissioned in 4 years from the start of construction and the 3.4 MT stage within 2 years thereafter. The Detailed Project Report for the plant prepared earlier is being revised. The Soviet portion of the revised DPR has