

Efforts to raise the productivity and efficiency of steel plants in the country

761. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited steel technologists, designers and consultants to provide technological and innovative resources to raise the productivity and efficiency of steel plants in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have entered into an agreement with the Soviets in December, 1977 for modernisation of Bhilai Steel Plant through Basic Technical & Economic Consideration (B.T.E.C.). This scheme provides for Soviet specialists and consultants to be invited to India to study the working of the plant and suggest measures for innovation and modernisation. The final report from the Soviets on BTEC is expected to be ready by January/February, 1979.

Steel technologists are also being invited to Bokaro Steel Plant for providing assistance in mastering the operation of new units, increasing production and productivity of steel making and carrying out innovations in steel technology. Government have signed a protocol with the USSR for working out the designs and increasing the plant's capacity to 5.5 million tonnes per year.

SAIL have similarly commissioned consultants in November, 1978 to work out schemes for modernisation of Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants. Of the various schemes suggested by MECON for Durgapur Steel Plant, modification of the Skelp Mill is being implemented already. Dastur & Company were commissioned earlier by

IISCO for working out a scheme for modernisation of their plants at Burnpur & Kulti.

Entry of Indians in Foreign Countries without Visa

762. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries which have agreed to allow entry of Indians without visa;

(b) whether this facility is given on reciprocal basis; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof for each country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) *Commonwealth Countries*.—(i) List of Commonwealth countries for which Indians do not require a visa for entry.

1. Botswana, 2. Canada, 3. Fejil
4. Guyana, 5. Jamaica, 6. Malaysia (provided they do not travel as deck sea passengers and are in possession of return air/sea tickets), 7. Kenya, 8. Mauritius, 9. Malawi, 10. Lesotho, 11. New Zealand, 12. Seychelles, 13. Singapore (upto two weeks), 14. Trinidad and Tobago, 15. Tanzania, 16. Zambia.

(ii) List of non-Commonwealth countries for which Indians do not require visas for 90 days by virtue of Visa Abolition Agreements entered into with these countries:—

1. Bulgaria, 2. Denmark, 3. Federal Republic of Germany, 4. Finland, 5. Iceland, 6. Norway, 7. Sweden, 8. Yugoslavia.

(iii) List of non-Commonwealth countries for which Indians do not require visas for entry:—

1. Chile, 2. Ireland, 3. Maldives.

(b) Yes, Sir.