

Soviet Union and the Bharai Aluminium Company (BALCO) for setting up an alumina plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Govt. of the Soviet Union have indicated their willingness to undertake feasibility studies for the project within a year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (c) A protocol has been signed by Bharat Aluminium Company with the Soviet authorities, wherein the Soviet side has expressed their readiness to assist Bharat Aluminium Company in preparation of a Feasibility Report for an Alumina Plant based on bauxite deposits in Andhra Pradesh, to be set up on "compensation" basis. The Soviet side will send their proposals in this regard very shortly.

Telephone Advisory Committees

*530. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to abolish the Telephone Advisory Committees in various States or to curtail their powers; and

(b) if not, what criteria are being followed for nominating members on these Committees?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) Functions of the telephone advisory committees have been modified

(b) Representatives from State administrations, State Legislatures, Corporations or civic bodies, M.P., are nominated by the authorities con-

cerned. Nominations in respect of representatives from medical profession, legal profession, all other professions like engineers, architects, etc., trade, commerce and industry and public workers and others are made on the recommendations received from different bodies as well as individual recommendations.

*531. [Transferred to the 20th December. 1977].

Setting up of a ferro-manganese plant

*532. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN:

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

(a) whether the Manganese Ore India Ltd. proposes to set up a ferro-manganese plant in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Manganese Ore India Limited have proposed to set-up one or two plants to manufacture 60,000 tonnes each per annum of ferro manganese and other alloys from manganese ore, at suitable location (s) in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores each. The proposal is under consideration of Government.

Employment of Indians in Gulf countries

*533. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state what is the number of Indians and the number among the»

from Kerala who have gone to the Gulf countries for employment during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): A large number of Indians have gone to the Gulf countries during the last six months for taking up employment. No statistics are available about their exact number and the States of their origin.

Bonus to the workers of the Bokaro Steel Plant

*534. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:

SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Bokaro Steel Plant have been agitating for a long time for payment of bonus to them;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted their demand for payment of bonus at the rate of 12.5 per cent; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) : (a) No, Sir. There has recently been no agitation by the employees of Bokaro Steel Plant for payment of bonus.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Under the Payment of Bonus Act the employees of Bokaro Steel Limited are not entitled to any bonus for the financial year 1976-77.

Seminar on Social Security and National Development

*535. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH;

SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN;

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be please^ to state:

(a) whether a Seminar on Social Security and National Development conducted by the International Labour Organisation was held in September, 1977;

(b) if so, what was the nature of discussions held and the decisions taken thereat; and

(c) whether Government have examined the suggestions made at the seminar and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A summary of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the ILO/Norway National Seminar on Social Security and National Development (India) held in New Delhi from the 19th to 30th September, 1977 is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix CIII Annexure No. 53].

(c) The various recommendations of the Seminar have been noted.

Delhi Telephone Advisory Committee

*536. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Telephone Advisory Committee has been re-constituted;

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the Committee; and