

Surendranagar-Dharangadhara 48 both way circuits. Ahmedabad to Mehsana 60 both way circuits. Nadiad to Kapadwanj 24 both way circuits. Rajkot to Morvi 48 both way circuits. Ahmedabad to Talod 48 both way circuits.

These circuits will be provided progressively.

Setting up of a Sponge Iron Production Plant with assistance from West Germany

1016. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a sponge iron production plant in the country with assistance from West Germany; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b). A demonstration sponge iron plant with an annual capacity of 30,000 tonnes is being set up in Kotha-gudem (Andhra Pradesh) with the assistance of the UNDP. The plant will be based on the SL/RN Technology of Lurgi (West Germany) with whom a contract for the supply of equipment has also been entered into. Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh will both participate in this project.

Bomb Explosion in an Indian Restaurant

1017. SHRI SHYAM LAL GUPTA:

SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent explosion in the Raj Restau-

rant in Bristol in U. K. a number of Indians were killed;

(b) whether Government have obtained any report in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) to (c) About two months ago there was a fire, and not a bomb explosion, at Raj Restaurant in Bristol in U. K. which was not owned by an Indian. As a result of fire, 5 persons are reported to have died. No deaths or injuries to any Indian national as a result of this incident have been reported.

US assistance or expansion of the Bokaro Steel Plant

1018. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government have sought assistance from U.S.A. for the expansion of the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what is the nature of assistance sought;

(c) whether the Government of USA have agreed to give the assistance and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Government have not sought any assistance either from the Government of U. S. A. or any organisation in that country for the expansion of the Bokaro Steel Plant.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.