

ting up of sponge iron plants in their countries where cheaper gas may be available.

Steel Plant at Paradeep

316. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a three million ton export-based steel plant at Paradeep in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):" (a) and (b) Government is considering 'the feasibility of setting up three port-based, export-oriented plants at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Paradeep. Capacity of such plants, their product-mix and the time-table for setting up such plants would depend on growth of internal and external demand of Steel.

P. C. Os. in Cooch Behar Districts

317. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the location of Public Call Offices opened in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal Circle during the last three years and so far during the current year;

(b) the number and the location of such public call offices likely to be opened in that district during the remaning part of the year 1977-78?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) During the last three years long distance Public Call Offices have been opened at the following ten places in Cooch Behar District of West Bengal Circle:

1. Giralbiha
- a. Bamanhat
3. Choudhuryhat
4. Balakandi
5. Nigam Nagar
6. Chilakhana
7. Tapurhat
8. Sahebganj
9. Sitalkuchi
10. Sitaihat. |

This year, no long distance P.C.O. has been opened in the district so far.

(b) During 1977-78, long distance P.C.Os. are likely to be opened at the following four places in C 00ch Behar district subject to availability of equipment:

1. Bairagirhat
2. Jamaldah
3. Palimari
4. Gopalpur.

Upgrading of Sub-Post Offices in Jalpaiguri

318. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade Dinhata and Alipurduar Sub-Post Offices to Head Post Offices under the Jalpaiguri Division of West Bengal Circle; and

(b) if so, by when these Sub-Post Offices are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) : (a) There is no proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade Dinhata and AlipurduarSub-Post Offices to Head Post Offices under Jalpaiguri Postal Division.

(b) Does not arise.