

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 remaining 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. Gitalbaha
2. 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 Cooch 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 Dinhat 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 Dinhat and Alipurduar Sub-Post Offices to Head Post Offices under Jalpaiguri Postal Division.

(b) Does not arise.