

A special Cell has been set up to impart road safety education to the public.

White paper on Steel Industry

*116. SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA:

SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the white paper on steel industry is silent about the popular demand in Orissa for setting up a second steel plant in the State either at Barai or Nayagarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the demand has been finally rejected by Government; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) to (c). The White Paper on Steel Industry brings out the multi-dimensional issues relating to the steel sector and its present and future programmes. It was indicated therein that the preparation of a 25 year perspective plan for steel industry has been taken in hand. A high level Committee has since been appointed by Government which, among other things, would identify the locations where new capacities could be created. In doing so, all possible locations in the various States including those in Orissa will be considered.

Diego Garcia Base

*117. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:
SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI
KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean has become operational;

(b) whether it is a fact that nuclear submarines are also stationed in Diego Garcia; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that Diego Garcia base is removed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Government of India have seen press reports suggesting that the US Naval base in Diego Garcia is already being used by the US Navy;

(b) Government have no authentic information on whether the nuclear submarines of the US Navy operating in the Indian Ocean are utilising Diego Garcia facilities;

(c) India's views on the United States' move to set up a full-fledged base at Diego Garcia are well-known and have been reiterated in this House before. India along with other Non-aligned countries, has taken the stand for the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, and this was reiterated by the Lusaka Summit in 1970, the Algiers Summit in 1973, the meeting of the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers at Lima in August, 1975, as well as the Algiers Bureau meeting of Foreign Ministers in May-June, 1976, apart from the resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly in support of the same.