

(b) by when Government propose to take a decision on setting up a semi-commercial sponge iron plant at Rourkela?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Steel Authority of India Limited have recommended the proposal for setting up a Ferro-Venadium Plant in the Mayurbhanj District of Orissa with an annual-capacity of 480 tonnes of Ferro-Vanadium and 47,500 tonnes of low phosphorous pig iron at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.06 crores. The proposal is now under consideration of the Government for an investment decision.

According to information received from the Steel Authority of India Limited, the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants of India Limited has prepared a Viability Report for setting up of a semi-commercial sponge iron plant at Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela for a capacity of 100,000 tonne per year, at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.2 crores, and this is now under consideration of the Steel Authority of India Limited.

**Residents of Pak-occupied Kashmir desiring to return to their homes**

◆265. SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY:

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the residents of the Pak-occupied part of Jammu and Kashmir State are desirous of crossing over and returning to their homes in the Kashmir Valley and Jammu area; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Some instances of persons-trying to cross over from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir come to notice from time to time. Each case is dealt with in accordance with individual requirements, keeping in mind the human aspect of the question.

**U.S. Seventh Fleet's presence in Indian Ocean**

\*266. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA; SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA; SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet is reported to have stated that the Fleets' routine deployment of ships in the Indian Ocean would continue; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(b) Government of India believe that the Indian Ocean should be a Zone of Peace free from great-power military rivalries and tensions. They are, therefore, opposed to the regular deployment of U.S. naval forces in the Indian Ocean. Such deployment is contrary to the UN proposal to declare the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and to the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the littoral and hinterland states.

**Members of Telephone Advisory Committee**

\*267. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one Shri Suresh Mehta a member of Telephone Advisory

'Committee, Bombay was arrested for some alleged fraud;

(b) whether it is a fact that his name was not included in the list of the names recommended by the General Manager of Bombay Telephones and that his name was added at Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Requests for nomination as members of the Telephone Advisory Committee for Bombay Telephones, are received from individuals, various Organisations and the State Governments through the General Manager Telephones, Bombay or directly by the Ministry. Recommendations in respect of Shri Suresh Mehta were received directly in the Ministry. Shri Suresh Mehta was nominated to Bombay T. A. C. as a prominent public worker;

विदेशों के मुकाबले में भारतीय ए० टी० डी० प्रणाली का काम

\*268. श्री प्रकाश वेर शास्त्री : क्या संवार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ए० टी० डी० की सेवाओं का काम विदेशों के मुकाबले का नहीं है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या इस के कारणों का पता लगाने का कोई प्रयत्न किया गया है ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो उस का क्या परिणाम निकला ?

**Performance of Indian STD System a-is-a-vis foreign countries**

♦268. SHRI PRAKASH VEER SHASTRI; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of S. T. D. services do not

t, 7 English translation.

compare favourably with those in foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to find out the causes; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?]

संवार मंत्री (श्री ए० डी० शर्मा): (क) से (ग) भारत की उपभोक्ता ट्रंक डायलिंग सेवा संतोषजनक रूप से काम कर रही है। यह सेवा विदेशों की अनेक उपभोक्ता ट्रंक डायलिंग सेवाओं के मुकाबले की है। इस सेवा में आगे और सुधार लाने के लिये निरन्तर कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। कोएक्सियल केबल प्रणालियाँ और माइक्रोवेव केबल प्रणालियाँ जैसे जटिल ट्रंक माध्यमों पर उच्च स्तर के लम्बी दूरी के बहुत ही भारीसे वाले ट्रंक सर्किटों के बड़े-बड़े खण्डों की स्थापना को जा रही है। नए ट्रंक आटोमैटिक एक्सचेंज स्थापित किये जा रहे हैं और मौजूदा एक्सचेंजों को क्षमता बढ़ाई जा रही है। इन उपायों से उपभोक्ता ट्रंक डायलिंग के सर्किटों की संख्या में वृद्धि होगी और उन के सेवा के स्तर में भी सुधार होगा।

t[THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA): (a) to (c) The STD service in India is satisfactory and compares favourably with many foreign countries. Steps are being taken to further improve the service on a continuing basis. Large blocks of high quality and very reliable long distance trunk circuits are being installed over sophisticated trunk media like coaxial cable system and microwave systems. New trunk, automatic exchanges are being installed and capacity of existing ones is being increased. These measures will increase the number of circuit for STD and improve their quality.]