

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) and (b). Government have asked the Steel Authority of India Ltd., to prepare a 25-year perspective plan for the development of the steel industry in the country. Detailed studies have already been undertaken on the principal requirements of the bases of which a perspective plan for the steel industry for the next 25 years could be prepared. Consequently, the target for production of steel at the end of the century and the level of investment needed to achieve such target would be determined, taking into account the likely overall rates of growth, the requirements of steel and the availability of resources.

Reported Australian Offer to U.K. and U.S.A.

*498. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported Australian offer to the U.S. and British fleet to use its naval bases on its Western Sea Board; and

(b) whether this Australian offer will create greater tension in the Indian Ocean; and military pressure against India; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir, the Government have seen a Press report to this effect.

(b) and (c). Any increase in great-power military presence in the Indian Ocean will lead to greater tension and rivalry. It will be a cause for anxiety to the littoral and hinterland States,

including India, which have consistently opposed establishment of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean so as to preserve it as a Zone of Peace.

Centenary Celebration of Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, Calcutta

*499. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:
DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether government propose to issue commemorative stamps in connection with the centenary Celebration this year of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta, with which the Indian Nobel prize laureate Prof. C. V. Raman was associated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA): Such proposals are considered by high level Philatelic Advisory Committee and special postage stamps are generally issued on the recommendations of this Committee. This proposal was not recommended, amongst others, by the Committee which met last 16-12-75.

भारतीय नौवहन के प्रतिनिधि मंडल द्वारा दक्षिण पूर्वी एशिया के देशों का भ्रमण

*500. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने में कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या किसी भारतीय नौवहन प्रतिनिधि मंडल को दक्षिण पूर्वी एशिया के देशों को भेजा जा रहा है कि कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचारधीन है ?

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रतिनिधि मंडल द्वारा किन-किन देशों का भ्रमण किये जाने की सम्भावना है ; और

(ग) इस यात्रा का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है और प्रतिनिधि मंडल में किस-किस व्यक्ति को सदस्य के रूप में सम्मिलित किये जाने की सम्भावना है ?