

Problems of SAIL Steel Plant, Burnpur

*368. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that SAIL Steel Plant, Burnpur is facing problems to start the new plant;
- (b) the details of the problems;
- (c) the steps Ministry has initiated to run the new modern plant;
- (d) whether there is any demand of local villagers for jobs; and
- (e) if so, the policy SAIL has framed to recruit new workers from land losers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is putting all its efforts to complete the expansion and modernization programme at IISCO Steel Plant (ISP), Burnpur. Some of the major facilities like Raw Material Handling Plant, Coal Handling Plant, Oxygen Plant, Sinter Plant and Blast Furnace have already been completed. The heating of the Coke Oven Battery has also started on 30.05.2012. In the past, some problems were encountered on account of unforeseen soil conditions, consequent increase in civil and structural work and disruption of work emanating from relocation of village deity to alternate site which was finally resolved on 21.06.2012. The progress of expansion and modernization programme of SAIL is monitored and reviewed in the Ministry at regular intervals with a view to settling issues that may impede commissioning.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) SAIL has a well laid-down recruitment policy which is in line with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises from time to time and in conformity with the Presidential Directives and various judicial pronouncements. This is applicable to all the Plants/Units of SAIL including ISP.

As per the present policy, posts which are required to be filled up in various categories are notified in the local employment exchange and published in the national and local newspapers specifying the eligibility criteria and selection procedure. The land losers/affected persons are eligible for consideration along with others, subject to their meeting the required specifications and qualifying as per the selection procedure.

In case of ISP, some of the affected persons moved the Hon'ble High Court in different writ petitions from time to time praying for its intervention in the land acquisition process and demanded higher compensation and employment. The matter is presently *sub-judice*.

Pilgrimage centres in Kerala

*369. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala's Pilgrimage Centres such as Sabarimala, Kadappattoor, Ramapuram, Bharananganam, Thangalpara and Murukanmala, situated in the districts of Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Idukki, are visited by lakhs of pilgrims and devotees from all over India and abroad every year;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to promote and develop pilgrim tourism in all these centres;

(c) whether Government can provide funds for the development of infrastructure and basic amenities in these centres; and

(d) whether Government would provide a special package to develop Bharananganam in Kottayam district, where the tomb and relics of St. Alphonsa are kept, as an international pilgrim centre?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development and promotion of various tourism destinations and products, including pilgrimage centres is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects, identified in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se-priority* and adherence to scheme guidelines.

The Ministry of Tourism runs centralized campaigns in electronic, print and online media in both international and domestic markets to promote various Indian tourism destinations and products including religious tourism in a holistic manner. Besides, the Ministry participates in various International Tourism Fairs, Exhibitions, Events for the purpose. The Ministry through its Overseas Offices, *inter-alia*, organizes Road Shows, Know India Seminars, Workshops to create awareness about Indian destinations and products. The Ministry also invites international tour operators, media persons and opinion makers under its hospitality scheme to give them first hand experience of Indian tourist destinations and products.