

will cost about Rs. 28 crores, against which the expenditure incurred by the Corporation upto the end of March, 1962, is Rs. 22.30 crores. The extent of Soviet assistance so far availed of amounts to Rs. 13.70 crores, against the total provision of about Rs 13.93 crores to be met out of the 112.5 million rouble Soviet credit of November, 1957.

Natural Gas from Pakistan

- *597. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:
Shri D. D. Puri:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Dr. R. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of **Mines and Fuel** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1362 on the 8th June, 1962 and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the matter of purchase of natural gas from Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The information supplied by the Government of Pakistan is under examination and economics of the offer are being worked out.

Wanted Man Meets President

- *598. { Shri A. P. Jain:
Shri Dhaon:

Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen the news item published in the Sunday edition of *Times of India* dated the 1st July, 1962 under the heading "Wanted Man Met President";

(b) whether it is a fact that a proclaimed offender for the past 14 years could evade the security police and

reach the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan;

(c) whether any investigation into the matter has been made and the official responsible for it found out; and

(d) whether any action has been taken to mend the loophole and strengthen the security measures?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). No. Enquiries show that a proclaimed offender did not meet the President as alleged in the newspaper report.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Steel Plant with Italian Collaboration

- *599. { Dr. R. Banerjee:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of **Steel and Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Italian firm has given a proposal to set up a steel plant at a low cost in comparison to the proposed steel plant at Bokaro by the Americans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with Italian procedure the cost of production will be cheaper; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) to (c). No, Sir. Only an expression of interest has been received from an Italian firm, and no cost factors have been worked out or comparisons made. This interest will be kept in mind when we consider the expansion of capacity during the Fourth Plan period.