

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID) : (a) All our Missions/Posts abroad are required to promote India's economic and commercial interests. This is a primary responsibility and our Missions and Posts have been made aware of the Government's expectations of them in these areas. Depending upon need, Missions/Posts are provided with suitable officers and staff to handle these important duties and their requirements, both personnel and infrastructural, are kept under constant review and changes or upgradations where needed are undertaken. However, no fundamental structural changes are required.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Demand of Steel

1020. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) the projected demand of steel by the end of Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan; and
(b) the steps taken to meet the demand for steel indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Projected domestic demand of finished steel by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan (1996-97) and Ninth Five Year Plan (2001-2002) is 20.74 million tonnes and 30.66 million tonnes respectively.

(b) In order to meet the increasing demand of steel, the Government have taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants has been taken up. Government also have adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in the Private Sector. These include :-

- (i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for public sector;
(ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing;
(iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries for purposes of foreign investment;
(iv) de-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel;
(v) reduction of duty on import of capital goods; and
(vi) liberalisation of import and export policy.

[Translation]

Copper Mining

1021. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the production of copper is constantly

declining in the country;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The production of refined copper by Hindustan Copper Limited, the sole producer of primary copper in the country, during the last 4 years is given below :

1991-92	45495 MT
1992-93	45275 MT
1993-94	39002 MT
1994-95	46134 MT

There was a planned shut down of Khetri Smelter for 2 1/2 months for maintenance and over-hauling during 1993-94 because of which HCL could produce 39002 MT of refined copper against a target of 40,000 MT fixed for the year.

(c) To increase the production of copper, steps have been taken for expansion of the Smelter & Refinery at Khetri Copper Complex of Hindustan Copper Limited from the existing capacity of 31,000 tonnes per annum to 1,00,000 tonnes per annum.

Expressway Between Indore and Bhopal

1022. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to construct Expressway between Indore and Bhopal; and
(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance provided/being provided by the Union Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) The question does not arise.

Plantation along National Highways

1023. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any scheme of plant trees on both sides of National Highways is under consideration of the Government;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
(d) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) Plantation of trees along National Highways is an accepted policy of the Government for the last several years and is a

continuing activity depending upon the availability of land within the right-of-way where plantation can be done, adequacy of funds, etc. A large length of National Highways has already been covered. In most States, Plantation of trees is being done through the State Forest/Horticulture Department, or in consultation with them.

[English]

Entry of Private Sector in Power

1024. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank had detailed many shortcomings in the administrative proceedings of the entry by the private sector in power sector;

(b) if so, the shortcomings detailed by the World Bank; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rectify those shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c) The World Bank in its document titled "India Country Economic Memorandum" has *inter alia* made certain observations on the existing structure of the power sector, which are under examination by the Government of India.

Privatisation of Projects in Uttar Pradesh

1025. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allot three Power Projects (Uttar Kashi, Chamoli) of U.P. to Private Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of these Projects; and

(d) the details of the companies to whom the Projects have been allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (d) Government of Uttar Pradesh have entrusted execution of Vishnuprayag HEP (4x100 MW) in Chamoli district of Uttar Pradesh in private sector to M/s Jai Prakash Industries Limited. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this project has been submitted by the promoters to the Central Electricity Authority and the project would be accorded techno-economic clearance as soon as it has obtained all necessary statutory and non-statutory clearances.

Government of Uttar Pradesh have invited offers from private parties for the following projects in Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts and these will be awarded after completion of evaluation of the bids received.

Name of the Project and Capacity	District
1. Palamaneri (416 MW)	Uttarkashi
2. Maneribhali (304 MW)	-do-
3. Lohari Nagpal (320 MW)	-do-
4. Tapovan Vishnugad (300 MW)	Chamoli
5. Bowia Nandprayag (132 MW)	-do-

Compensation to Kuwait Returnees

1026. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of compensation due to Kuwait returnees and the total number of payment made to India;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to claim the compensation and disburse the same to the remaining claimants; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID) : (a) Although 1,45,759 Indian claims for an asserted value of US\$ 3.5 billion, have been filed with the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), the actual amount of compensation will be determined by the UNCC. No payment of any Indian claim has been received from the UNCC.

(b) Apart from having filed all Indian claims, including incomplete or deficient ones, Government of India's representatives have been actively participating at the UNCC meetings pleading for early disbursement of compensation payment.

(c) Due to the large number of claims filed, the UNCC is currently engaged in scrutinising claims in smaller categories, which will thereafter be followed by the scrutiny of claims for larger amounts, corporate claims etc. This is being done not with respect to India alone but on a global basis. Furthermore, actual payments for approved claims have not been made because of lack of resources in the Compensation Fund established for this purpose.

Throwing of Burning Indian Flag into Premises of Indian High Commission, Islamabad

1027. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the JKLF activists threw a burning Indian flag into the premises of Indian High Commission in Islamabad (Pakistan) on 22nd May, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to this incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID) : (a) and (b) On May 22, 1995, a group of JKLF activists while staging a demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission, Islamabad, burnt the Indian Flag and threw it into the High Commission's premises.

(c) A strong protest was lodged through diplomatic channel and our deep regret on the matter conveyed to the Government of Pakistan.

Housing Loan by HUDCO.

1028. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by HUDCO for housing loans during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K.