

(b) If so, the facts and reasons therefor and measures proposed to be taken to reduce the cost of production of this plant?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):** (a) Cost of production varies from country to country and from undertaking to undertaking but considering the import quotations received by M.M.T.C. for import of stainless steel sheets, cost of production of sheets/plates at Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur is higher

(b) The main reasons for higher cost of production of Alloy Steel Plant are:—

- (i) Out dated technology in respect of sheets/plates.
- (ii) Higher cost of power.
- (iii) Higher cost of Imported raw materials (Ferro Alloys, Nickel, Graphite electrodes etc.).
- (iv) Advantage of economy of scale is not available.

Manufacturers are constantly endeavouring to reduce cost of production. Government is contemplating to set up more production facilities for stainless steel sheets and plates at Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur based on modern technology. It is expected that with the commissioning of new facilities the cost of production would come down.

#### Designing of Steel Plant Equipment

\*792. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector will be allowed to play any role in designing or manufacturing steel plant equipment; and

(b) if so, whether technical collaborations will be allowed in this line of fabrication?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):** (a) The private sector is already playing a significant role in the design, development and manufacturing of equipment for steel plants and it is the intention that the private sector should continue to perform this role.

(b) Technical collaboration proposals will continue to be allowed on merits.

टेलीफोन कालों की दरों को कम करना

\* 793. श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत सरकार उदार नीति के रूप में मार्बजनि क टेलीफोन केन्द्रों से टेलीफोन कालों की वर्तमान दरों को कम करना चाहती है जिससे जन-साधारण भी टेलीफोन मुविधा का लाभ उठा सकें ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बुजलाल वर्मा) : (क) पी० सी० ग्रो० से की जाने वाली प्रत्येक काल का मौजूदा शुल्क 50 पैसे है। इस दर में कमी करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

हिन्दुस्तान कंस्ट्रक्शन कम्पनी लि० द्वारा ट्रकचरल फेब्रिकेशन का काम

6090. श्री मोहन जैन : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिन्दुस्तान कंस्ट्रक्शन कम्पनी लिमिटेड के चिन

अधिकारियों ने लोकसभा चुनाव की अवधि अथवा इससे पूर्व स्ट्रक्चरल फैब्रिकेशन का काम पार्टियों को बड़ी दरो पर देकर कम्पनी को लाखों रुपए की हानि पहुंचाई थी, उनकी पदोन्नति की गई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ग्योरा क्या है ?

इत्याद और खान मंत्री (श्री बीजू पटनायक): (क) जी, नहीं। उल्लिखित अवधि के दौरान हिन्दुस्तान स्टील वर्क्स संस्करण लि० द्वारा ढांचों के संविरचन का काम किसी भी पार्टी को बड़ी दरो पर नहीं दिया गया था और इस संबंध में कम्पनी को कोई हानि नहीं हुई है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

**Expenditure on foreign delegates who attended Gauhati session of Youth Congress**

6001. DR BHAGWAN DASS RATHOR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign delegates who had come to attend the Gauhati Session of the Youth Congress were provided local hospitality by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations; and

(b) if so, how much expenditure was incurred on each delegate?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE): (a) Some of the foreign delegates who were youth leaders of standing in their own countries had come as observers to the Gauhati session and were provided hospitality by the ICCR at Delhi and Agra.

(b) The total expenditure incurred by the ICCR on 47 of these foreign delegates came to Rs. 81,775.56. This works out to an average expenditure of Rs. 1,740/- approximately on each such delegate.

**Korba Aluminium Plant**

6092. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULE-KAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aluminium Plant at Korba is running at loss or at profit and the extent of loss or profit;

(b) whether in the revised estimate of Ratnagiri project profitability is expected for Alumina and/or Aluminium plant without township and the extent of profitability;

(c) whether only Rs. 10 lakhs out of Rs. 49 crores budgeted for BALCO for the year 1977-78 are to be spent over Ratnagiri Project and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government propose to permit Indian Aluminium Company of Belgaum to receive Bauxite from Dhangawadi and Udgir in Kolhapur district which Bauxite is meant and reserved for Ratnagiri project?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) The estimated loss of the Korba Aluminium Plant for 1976-77 is Rs. 3 crores. This is due to the operation at present of only 25 per cent of the scheduled smelting capacity of 100,000 tonnes per annum.

(b) The updated cost estimates of the Ratnagiri project are under examination

(c) Owing to financial constraints, work on the construction of the Ratnagiri Project has not been taken up and a provision of only Rs. 5 lakhs.