

The Ministry of External Affairs remains in constant touch with the Ministry of Commerce on the question of working of the country's missions abroad to further our trade relations. Recently, steps have been taken for setting up of separate economic sections, up-gradation of existing posts and creation of additional posts. In addition, improvements have been effected in the training of commercial representatives and for making the role and working methods of the commercial representatives responsive to the requirements of the Indian exporting community. From time to time, seminars have also been organised for officers handling commercial work in our missions abroad so as to increase their efficiency, efficacy and effectiveness in the specialised task of handling commercial work.

Production of Khetri Copper Project

1639. SHRI CHATUR BHUJ: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) the total capacity of blister copper production of the Khetri Copper Project and what is the actual production;

(b) the reasons for low production;

(c) what steps are being taken to overhaul the plant; and

(d) whether any modifications, adjustments and assistance from foreign experts is being sought to fill the production gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) The installed capacity of blister copper production at Khetri Copper Project is 31,000 tonnes per annum. Actual production of blister copper at Khetri during the last 3 years and current year has been as below:—

Years	Tonnes
1975-76	9,531
1976-77	7,813
1977-78	8,499
1978-79 (upto 31-10-78)	4,990

(b) The low production of blister copper is because of technological problems faced at the Khetri smelter.

(c) and (d). To overcome the technological problems, Hindustan Copper Ltd. have obtained the services of a well known producer of Copper viz. M/s. Furukawa Co. Limited of Japan. Their specialists are working at Khetri since September, 1977. The various recommendations made by the consultants are currently being implemented by Hindustan Copper Ltd. The plant operations have already registered improvement and further improvements are expected when all the recommendations of the consultants are fully implemented.

Port based Steel Plant

1640. SHRI S. R. DAMANI:

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER
GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up 3 new port-based steel plants in the public sector;

(b) if so, the initial and ultimate capacity of each of these plants, the type of various end-products which would be manufactured by these plants;

(c) the total financial outlay involved and the names of the foreign countries whose collaboration has been sought for and the assistance expected by way of supply of plant and machinery, technical know-how etc.; and

(d) whether it is a fact that some of the States in which these plants are proposed to be located have represented against the site selected for the purpose; if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (c). Government have lately been considering the feasibility of setting up three shore-based steel plants. Preliminary discussions have been held with certain countries, such as USSR, Romania, West Germany and U.K. on the project concept and nature of assistance which can be provided by them for establishing the projects. These discussions are still continuing and it is premature at this stage to say what will ultimately be the capital outlay, capacity and the product-mix of these plants.

(d) No, Sir.

Identity Cards to Depositors

1641. **SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether identity cards will be issued to every depositor in savings account in rural post offices;

(b) if so, whether they will be supplied free of cost; and

(c) if so, the object of giving these cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b). Identity cards are proposed to be issued to those depositors in the rural areas who wish to avail of this facility. These Cards will be supplied free of cost but photographs will have to be given by the depositors.

(c) When a depositor seeks to withdraw money from his Savings Bank account, his signature on the applica-

tion is compared with the specimen on record in the post office. If the signature differs, then attestation by a respectable person known to the post office or a Gazetted Officer etc., is required. Having regard to the conditions in the rural areas, it has been felt that the rural depositors should have a ready means of establishing their identity for purposes of withdrawal of money. The Identity Cards are therefore proposed to be introduced.

Subject Discussed with Foreign Minister of Seychelles

1642. **SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI:**

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Minister of Seychelles visited India in November, 1978;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed;

(c) whether he has called upon big powers to quit Indian Ocean;

(d) if so, whether India and Seychelles are having identical views in this regard; and

(e) whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mr. Guy Sinon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of the Govt. of the Republic of Seychelles visited India from 30th October to 5th November, 1978. During his visit he called on the President and the Prime Minister of India, and held official talks with myself. The subjects discussed included India-Seychelles bilateral relations as well as international problems of common concern.