

Proposal to start Second T.V. Channel at Bombay

1187. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start second T.V. channel at Bombay;

(b) if yes, whether it will be located in the heart of Bombay or somewhere near Nasik; and

(c) whether any time bound programme is fixed for starting this channel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). There is presently no specific proposal to start a second TV channel at Bombay. Doordarshan is, however, examining the implications of a second channel for Bombay TV. There is no TV station at Nasik. Therefore, the question of a second channel there does not arise.

Nationalisation of Steel Industry

1188. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding the proposed move for nationalisation of Steel industry in private sector as given out in statements by Ministers from time to time;

(b) particulars of representation made by Tata and others in this regard; and

(c) the precise measures proposed to improve output in the national interest regardless of predilections of private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) The matter is still under consideration of the Government so far as Tata

Iron and Steel Company Ltd., the only integrated steel plant in the private sector, is concerned.

(b) Suggestions and representations have been received from time to time including from Shri Tata, for and against the take over of this steel plant. These are all of a general nature.

(c) Steps have been taken such as modernisation, where necessary, providing more power, more and better coal etc. to improve the output.

Supply of Billets to Steel Re-rolling Mills

1189. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government for issuing billets for steel re-rolling mills;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the allocation;

(c) the number of steel re-rolling mills which have been closed or partially working during last year for want of billets; and

(d) action proposed to set them on their feet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) There is no statutory control on the distribution of any category of iron and steel including billets. However, the categories in short supply are distributed according to certain formulae. In the case of billets this formula had been devised in consultation with the Steel Re-rollers' Associations.

(b) Distribution policy of billets for the next year has not yet been finalised.

(c) Government have no such information.

(d) Does not arise.