

Changes in the concept of Steel Plant in Orissa

995. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by the U.K. High Commissioner in India to the effect that there have been some changes in the concept of the proposed 3.5 million tonne steel plant in Orissa and negotiations were going on between India and U.K. in the changed circumstances; and

(b) the details of the changes made in the concept of the proposed 3.5 million tonne steel plant in Orissa and at what stage this proposed steel plant is at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). Presumably, the reference is to the statement of U.K. High Commissioner in India published in the Times of India dated May 18, 1982. This does not represent Government of India's views on the subject. After cancellation of the Letter of Intent, no offer has been received from M/s. Davy McKee of U.K. Nor are any negotiations in progress with them for project.

Mineral nodules in sea-bed

996. SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI A. K. ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rich deposits of nodules containing manganese, ferrous, nickel cobalt and copper minerals are available in the sea-bed;

(b) whether Government have started working vigorously in the field of ocean-floor mining, if so, the achievements upto now;

(c) whether the Department of Ocean Development has asked Engineers India Limited to prepare a preliminary feasibility report on the basis of data on the nodules mining technology; and

(d) if so, the progress till now in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Ocean Development has initiated intensive surveys to locate the deposits in the Indian Ocean and India has been recognised as a "pioneer Investor" by the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

IASIPS Officers serving as office bearers of sports associations

997. SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of particulars of IAS and IPS Officers who are office bearers of sports associations or Governing bodies of the sports associations;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some of these officers misuse their official position in the Government while serving as office bearers or member of such associations; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent such misuse of authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBAIAH): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Instances of misuse of official position have come to the notice of Government and the matter is being pursued further.