

Indo-Iran Planning Panel

235 SHRI P. M MEHTA :

SHRI K LAKKAPPA

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether India and Iran have decided to set up a Planning Panel, and

(b) if so, what will be the main purpose of the panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Talks with the Soviet Union for Economic Co-operation during Fifth Plan

236 SHRI P M MEHTA

SHRI P GANGADEB

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether talks with Soviet Union for Economic Co-operation during the Fifth Five Year Plan have been fruitful and

(b) if so, whether Soviet Union has stated that she is willing to assist India in stepping up India's production of steel, copper, aluminium and meet her other needs in the field of metals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Soviet Union has stated her willingness to assist India in the expansion of the Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants and in the preparation of Feasibility Reports for erection of facilities to manufacture raw materials for the production of copper and aluminium.

Talks with friendly countries for economic co-operation in Fifth Plan

237 SHRI P M MEHTA

SHRI P GANGADEB

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether India has had series of high level talks with friendly countries for economic co-operation in the Fifth Plan period, and

(b) if so which are these countries and to what extent they have agreed to assist India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Exploratory talks have been held with friendly countries, like Iraq, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the USSR for economic co-operation between India and these countries in the Fifth Plan period and on a long term basis. The extent of assistance from these and other countries to India in the various fields of development will depend on identification of particular projects and programmes in India in which assistance would be available from these countries on mutually acceptable terms.

Programme to modernise Postal system and Telecommunication Services

238 SHRI P M MEHTA

SHRI K LAKKAPPA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are considering a massive programme to modernise the Postal system and Telecommunication services in the country;

(b) if so the salient features thereof;