

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) It is proposed to set up a Nickel Project in Orissa in Sukinda area. An officer on Special Duty has been appointed in Hindustan Copper Limited with Head Quarters at New Delhi to look after the work of this Project. At present there is no proposal to shift the office of the Officer on Special Duty outside Delhi.

Land Acquired for Bhilai Steel Plant

5219. SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) when Bhilai Steel Plant came into existence, and how many acres of land were acquired from the agriculturists for this plant?

(b) how many acres of land are used by the Plant now; and

(c) how many acres of land have been occupied by unauthorised persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Work on the Bhilai Steel Plant started in 1955. A total area of 28,669 acres was acquired for the plant. Of this 20522 acres were acquired from agriculturists.

(b) and (c). Up-to-date information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Leave Travel Concessions to workers of Bhilai Steel Plant

5220. SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local employees in the Bhilai Steel Plant were once given money in the form of 'Leave Tra-

vel Concession' and now it has been withdrawn;

(b) whether a large number of employees from other State at the time of recruitment say that they are domicile of Madhya Pradesh, but after sometime they claim 'Leave Travel Concession' to go to their home States; and

(c) the number of employees who availed of 'Leave Travel Concession' for the last three years and the amount drawn?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) The leave Travel Concessions of Hindustan Steel Limited have not been withdrawn. For the year 1969 alone, an additional concession was given namely that employees could travel to a place other than their declared Home Towns subject to reimbursement being restricted to distance of 750 Kms. each way. This additional concession was extended for a period of 3 months beyond 1969 to benefit those who had not availed themselves of it in 1969. It has not been extended thereafter.

(b) No, Sir. At the time of recruitment, the employees have to declare their permanent home town which is treated as the home town for the purpose of availing of leave travel concession also as per Rules.

(c) The number of employees who availed themselves of Leaves Travel Concession during the last three years and the amounts drawn by them are as follows:—

Year	No of Employees	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1969-70	15,552	49.22
1970-71	10,750	25.30
1971-72	9,969	29.17