Tampering with Report of Committee on Untouchability by Department of Social Welfare

227. SHRI JAGESWAR YADAV:
SHRI P.C. ADICHAN:
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR:
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:
SHRI K. HALDER:
SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR:
SHRI D.N. PATODIA:
SHRI SURAJ BHAN:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN LAL:
SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI:
SHRI SHARDA NAND:
SHRI RAM GOPAL SHALWALE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Elayaperumal, Chairman of the Committee on Untouchability, in a letter to the Prime Minister on 12th May, 1069 had alleged that the Department of Social Welfare had tampered with the Committee's Report;

(b) whether he had also alleged that the Department had shown an indifferent and even hostile attitude towards the Committee;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made into these allegations;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action, if any, taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). The allegations were not found to be correct. There was no tampering with the report and, therefore, no enquiry was called for. On the other hand the Department extended the fullest cooperation to the Committee.

Setting up of new Steel Plants

228. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :
SHRI DINKAR DESAI :
SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA :
SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :
SHRI NIHAL SINGH :
SHRI ESWARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any preliminary estimates have been made regarding the proposed public sector steel plants at Visakhapatnam, Salem and Hospet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how long it will take to construct these plants;

(d) whether the Tamilnadu Government have suggested that the Salem steel plant should be a joint venture by both the Centre and the State Government;

(e) whether the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has pleaded that the State Government should have a voice in the management of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(f) if so, Government's views on these suggestions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). Preliminary estimates regarding the proposed public sector steel plants at Visakhapatnam, Hospet and Salem will be prepared as a part of the Techno Economic Feasibility studies which are likely to be taken up shortly.

(c) Examination of this aspect will also be covered by the Techno-Economic Feasibility studies.

(d) Yes, Sir. There has been a suggestion about equity participation in the Project.