

darshan, except in the regional languages films chunk on the national network on Sunday for which specific illegibility criteria as indicated in the reply to part [a] above have been laid down.

#### **Enhancement of Economic Cooperation with Portugal**

8227. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to enhance economic cooperation with Portugal;

(b) if so, the joint venture projects proposed to be set up with Portugal as a part of increasing economic cooperation; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (c). Government is keen to increase economic and commercial cooperation with Portugal inter alia through setting up joint ventures. However, no joint venture has been approved during the last three years.

#### **Compensatory Grant to Kerala**

8228. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any request from Kerala for compensatory grant to maintain status-quo in transport fares in spite of rise in price of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the decision of Union Govern-

ment in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The Kerala State Government have intimated us that no formal request has been made in this regard but that in the Transport Ministers' Conference held recently in New Delhi, the Transport Minister of Kerala had mentioned that the Union Government may have to consider compensating the State Road Transport Undertakings for the burden which they may have to shoulder due to increase in fuel prices.

(b) As State Road Transport Undertakings are required to function on commercial lines and generate surpluses after meeting their costs of operation, the question of giving any compensatory grant does not arise.

#### **Energy Consumption in Steel Plants**

8229. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the energy required for production of one ton of steel in our country with plant-wise break up;

(b) the optimum energy requirement compared to the countries like USA, USSR, UK, Japan, Germany and France giving the energy consumption in these countries separately; and

(c) the steps taken to attain the standard of those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Plant-wise energy consumption for SAIL Integrated Steel Plants for production of 1 ton of crude steel are as follows: