

due to insufficient infrastructural facilities in terms of water supply or power or transport and other insufficient infrastructural facilities, the interests of tourism development conflict with the interests of the local population. This happens, for instance, in the State from where I myself come. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in view of this, whether he is coordinating or will coordinate with other Ministries, so that in areas which are of intense tourist projection like Goa from where I come, increased water supply, power, transport will be given so that the local population is not inconvenienced as a result of the tourist influx.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, as far as Goa is concerned, it is one of our most important tourist areas; infrastructural facilities are of extreme importance to us. We are not only coordinating with various Ministries but also with the Ministry of Environment because environment protection is also extremely necessary. We have had nearly 250 thousand visitors in Goa. In fact, in the international map, it is the fourth or fifth most populous tourist spot in the world. So, every possible encouragement we can give, we are giving and I think if you see the Budget allocation, you will find that both the State Government in Goa and the Central Government are giving all possible encouragement to all facets of tourism in the State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHABIRAM ARGAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are several backward State where there is large tourist potential. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a number of schemes to Central Government for the development of tourism in the State. Chambal, Gwalior and Sheopuri etc. are backward areas. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a number of tourism schemes to Central Government with a view to removing the backwardness of these areas. So will the Government allocate funds on a priority basis for the development of those backward states, where there is more potential for the development of tourism?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: As I said earlier, we have received recommendations from the State Governments and we shall convey to the State Government, the views expressed by the hon. Member and if any scheme for the development of Chambal comes before us, we shall consider it.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the amount allocated for the year 1990-91, for the development of tourist spots like Sher Shah's Mausoleum, Salim Shah's Mausoleum, the Shergarh Fort, the Rohtas Fort, the Gupta Dham etc., situated in Rohtas District of Bihar?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: The State Government has to send their schemes to the Centre. As I said earlier, we are holding talks with them on this issue. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: It is a very important question and I want to ask... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already gone to the next question. You can write a letter to the Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

Vijaynagar Steel Plant

*163. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHA RAJA
WADIYAR:
SHRI . JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the estimated cost of the proposed Vijaynagar Steel Plant in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the revised estimated cost;

(c) whether the construction work would be taken up during the Eighth Plan; and

(d) if so, the specific steps taken to expedite the preliminary work of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). This will depend on the availability of funds in the 8th Plan for this project.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, the demand of steel by 2000 A.D. will be around 25 million tonnes. The present production is around 12 million tonnes. The Karnataka people were very happy when the hon. Minister made a statement in the month of December after taking over the charge as Minister stating that he would go before the Planning Commission with a proposal of Rs. 2,000 crores for two projects—one for Karnataka and the other for Orissa—during the Eighth Plan period. He had further stated that the capacity of each of the projects would be 1 million tonnes.

I would like to know whether there is a proposal to set up these two plants—one in Karnataka and another in Orissa. If at all it is true, is he going before the Planning Commission with the proposal to get Rs. 2,000 crores as stated by him in the Press.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, I had the pleasure of answering this very question in the last session of Parliament also. I agree with the hon. Member that today there is a gap between the demand and the supply almost to the extent of 2 million tonnes. It is our projection also that by the terminal year of the Ninth Plan, there will be a deficit of more than 2 million tonnes in so far as the demand and supply of steel is concerned. Therefore, it is the view of our Ministry that

we should have two more steel plants and the ideal sites of the two greenfields sites are: one in Orissa, that is, Daitari and the other is Vijaynagar.

We asked for a financial allocation this year of Rs. 2 crore for the two plants. The Finance Minister has been kind enough to give us instead of Rs. 2 crore only Rs. 1 crore. But that is not much of a problem because we can make an adjustment at the revised estimate stage as necessary.

It is also true that we have asked the Planning Commission for financial allocation of Rs. 1,000 crore for each of the two projects in the next Five-Year Plan. Even if funds are not available, then the Ministry is prepared to look to an alternatives. The entire thing is now dependent on the Planning Commission. If the Planning Commission includes it in the Eighth Five-Year Plan, then, we are very keen to go through those two projects. In fact, it is the Department's view that these two steel plants should be set up so that we may not have any deficit in the production of steel and the demand and supply of steel in the terminal year of the Ninth Plan.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: In order to avoid the strain on the State and also the Central resources, I would like to know as to whether the Government is going to think of going in for a joint sector or for private investments or for assistance from foreign countries.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Even while replying to the first question, I indicated that even if the funds are not available, we can explore the possibilities of getting funds. Of course, this is a major decision on which I cannot decide alone as to whether we should invite the private sector for integrated steel plants or not. But so far as my Ministry is concerned, these are aspects which are still under our consideration and we are exploring the possibilities. Primarily, it is now dependant upon the Planning Commission's approach as to whether or not the Planning Commission will include the two steel plants,

which we want to set up, in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRIBALGOPALMISHRA: The people of Orissa have been expecting a steel plant from 1977 and the previous Government had given a pooja gift of a steel plant for many times. Many poojas have passed after the gift was given but the steel plant is yet to materialise. There is an organisation called Neelachal Ispat Nigam in Orissa. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much money has been spent so far on this Neelachal Ispat Nigam and what are its achievements and whether it is a fact that earlier the Hyundai Corporation was prepared to have the second steel plant in Orissa. Due to some people's step-motherly attitude towards Orissa, this steel plant could not materialise. We hope that this Government would give us the steel plant at the earliest opportunity.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I know that the people of Karnataka and Orissa are very keen for these two projects, one at Vijayanagar and the other at Daitari. The foundation stone for the Vijayanagar Plant was even laid as early as in 1970 and 1980. But, unfortunately, this foundation stone was laid even without any techno-economic feasibility report being prepared and without any allocation of funds. We are spending some money every year by treating these two organisations alike. I cannot give any assurance to the hon. Member unless the Planning Commission clears the two projects. I am not the Planning Commission but I am depending upon the Planning Commission. The only assurance that I can give to the hon. Member is that so far as our Department is concerned, we are pressurising and pleading with the Planning Commission that these two steel plants should be set up at the two green field sites already selected and for which foundation stones were also laid as early as twenty or ten years back. These are the requirements of the country to meet the demand and supply situation.

SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to

whether the Government of India is ready to accept any foreign resources, if available, to start these steel plants.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The question of whether we will go in for foreign resources or whether we will change our policy in view of the States' financial position and other constraints in the country and regarding private capital are all matters which the Planning Commission will take into consideration while formulating its proposals regarding the Eighth Five Year Plan and regarding the inclusion of these two steel plants in the Plan.

SHRI KOTLA VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: The Minister has been repeating that they have sent the proposals to the Planning Commission and is awaiting the reply. The Finance Minister has given only one instead of two. While waiting for the Planning Commission's reply, why don't you take steps to simultaneously think of other resources for these two plants as you know that the gap for the Ninth Five Year Plan is going to be still vast? In view of this, are you exploring the possibilities of starting these two steel plants in other sectors?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The Eighth Five Year Plan proposals have not been finalised. Therefore, we have to wait. But it is not that we are not taking simultaneous action. We are also approaching the Cabinet—I can disclose only this much—regarding the possibility of involving private capital in the matter of steel industry considering the resources constraints. But it is a major policy decision which must be taken by the entire Cabinet.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Although other countries have gone beyond the steel age, we continue to be in the steel age. The problem with our steel industry in India is that our steel consuming industries have to bear a higher cost of iron and steel. There are many reasons for it. One reason is the tariff equalization policy. Additionally, we can generate problems by locating our steel units in areas where natural advan-

tages do not permit them to be established. My question is in connection with this. Orissa, for instance, which is the richest in resources, is very backward in terms of per *capita* income. Steel units should be established in Orissa also. But my question is in terms of cost. What is the unit investment cost in a new steel factory and what is the unit steel investment cost when we try to expand an already established unit, as in the case of IISCO and Durgapur, they are trying to expand their present capacity?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: So, far as the two steel plants are concerned, our assessment is that it will require an investment of Rs. 2500 crores. The first phase is for one million tonnes and from that the hon. Member can find out the per unit investment. He is a letter mathematician than me.

So far as the modernization is concerned, the amounts vary for both the plants. For Rourkela second phase, we have received the tenders. Nothing has been finalised for Durgapur also. For Burnpur also, it has not been finalised. Till that is finalised, it is not possible to give even the projected unit investment cost. But so far as Durgapur is concerned, I will give the figures to the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, my question No. 172 relates to Burnpur. It may kindly be clubbed with this question.

MR. SPEAKER: You could have raised it in the beginning, not now.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I did not know that the Minister would mention about Burnpur also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Loknath Choudhury.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY: Since there will be shortage of steel to the extent of two million tonnes, I would like to know whether the Government feels that the two steel plants, one in Karnataka and the other in Orissa will be sufficient to meet the

needs in the 8th Plan.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Orissa Government has examined and found that the steel industry in the coastal site would involve less cost of production due to the import of coal from other countries. If so, will the Government propose to change the site from Daitari to Pradeep in view of the less cost of production?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Before I respond to this question, I would like to give one information in answer to the previous question. The average cost per installed tonne of capacity of a new steel plant is Rs. 25000 to Rs. 30000 and for modernization, it is Rs. 12000 to Rs. 15000 per tonne.

I share the anxiety of the hon. Member from Orissa that a steel plant should be set up in Orissa. You also, Sir, come from Orissa and you have also pleaded for it. The hon. Chief Minister of Orissa is after me; the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka is after me. I would plead with this House that you raise your voice so that the Planning Commission is compelled by the voice of this House to include it in the 8th Plan. Nobody will be more happy than me if they are included in the 8th Plan.

Appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges

*165. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt the principle of making senior most Supreme Court Judge as the Chief Justice;

(b) whether the senior most Chief Justice of the High Courts is to be considered first for elevation to Supreme Court; and

(c) the number of senior most Chief Justice of the High Courts who have been superseded in the matter of appointment of Supreme Court Judges since December, 1989?