

(b) if so, what is the cost of the scheme; and

(c) what considerations have made the Government to take this decision?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah):

(a) Gorakhpur which was military airfield will again be used for the I.A.F. Civil flying will not be affected.

(b) and (c). It is not in public interest to give this information.

Engineering Colleges in Punjab

***333. Shri D. C Sharma:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engineering colleges proposed to be opened in Punjab during the Third Five Year Plan period and whether places have been selected for them; and

(b) if so, the names of the places?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). A Regional Engineering College is proposed to be established at Kurukshetra.

Exploitation of Low Grade Minerals

***334. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent statement made by the Director, Indian Bureau of Mines saying that time had come to exploit low grade minerals on commercial scale to meet the shortage of different kinds of minerals in the country; and

(b) whether this is the official view of Government?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the interests of conservation of resources, even in respect of minerals in which there may not be any shortage in the country, the time is always opportune to ex-

plore ways and means of utilising not only the comparatively lower grades in particular minerals but also such part of those minerals as are being produced incidental to the mining of the higher grade deposits but are at present not being utilised. As part of this policy, for example, considerable importance has been given in the Third Plan to the establishment of more washeries both for coking and non-coking coal. Provision has also been made in the Plan for setting up facilities for the beneficiation of lower grades of manganese ore. The feasibility of sintering and other methods for utilising iron ore fines is also being examined. In fact, the recent observations of the Director, Indian Bureau of Mines were made while conducting a Press party to see the various pilot plant equipment in the Bureau at Nagpur designed for experiments regarding beneficiation of various minerals.

Rourkela Steel Plant

***335. Shri Yallamanda Reddy:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the official team of experts sent by the West German Government to enquire into the working of the Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, what are the contents of the same?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramanian):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Dose not arise.

Precision Instruments Factory

***336.** { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri P. Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any decision regarding the location of the precision instruments factory