

reiterated this request in his discussions with the Myanmar Government. A formal request for setting up suitable memorial has been placed before them. Our Ambassador has also been in touch with the Mayor and other authorities of Mandalay on this issue.

#### **Pak's Acquiring Weapons from Russia**

\*116. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent attempts of Pakistan to acquire sophisticated weapons from Russia;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached between Russia and Pakistan in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken up this matter with Russia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of Russia thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of attempts by Pakistan to acquire weapons from Russia.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The Russian government has recently again indicated that it has not permitted any arms sales to Pakistan.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Government of India's concerns in this regard have been brought to the attention of the Russian authorities at various levels. During his visit to India in December, 1994, the Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin had stated publicly that Russia had neither sold, nor did it intend to sell, arms to Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

#### **Export of Steel**

\*117. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries to whom steel is being exported;

(b) whether the export of steel has declined in comparison to last year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefore and the schemes formulated by the Government to boost export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Steel from India is exported to various countries including China,

Japan, USA, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Australia and Germany.

(b) No, Sir. During the first six months of the current financial year, there has been 14.5% increase in the quantity of steel exported as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[*English*]

#### **Bidhanbag Unit of Balco**

\*118. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :  
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether MECON was engaged by the Union Government for recommending revamping/modernization of the Bidhanbag Unit of BALCO;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations have been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons thereof;

(f) the time by which all the recommendations of MECON will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) to (f). No Sir, however M/s MECON were engaged by Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) for recommending modernisation of their Bidhanbag Unit. M/s. MECON submitted a report in June '87 for upgrading and modernising the conductor plant, foil plant, extrusion plant and some other facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 433 crores. The report was not found viable. MECON submitted a revised report in December '87 for revamping of only the conductor plant in two phases at an estimated cost of Rs. 196 lacs. Phase I involved an investment of Rs. 76 lacs for production of 1000 tonnes of All Aluminium Alloy Conductors. This was implemented by company has now given a turnkey contract to another contractor for streamlining and modernising the conductor plant.

[*English*]

#### **Demand of Power**

\*119. DR CHINTA MOHAN :  
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual average increase in the demand of electricity during the last three years;