

(a) the details of the latest position regarding construction of Bhopal gas victim hospital at Bhopal;

(b) whether there is an escalation in the cost of the hospital and whether the Union Carbide would meet the escalated cost outside the money deposited with the Supreme Court, by the Union Carbide; and

(c) whether the time limit laid down by the Supreme Court in their judgement dealing with the hospital has been transgressed?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) . The construction of a speciality hospital at Bhopal started in September, 1995 and is to be completed by November, 1997. The present progress of the work is in accordance with the implementation schedule. This hospital is being financed by the funds made available from the sale of shares of Union Carbide to the Bhopal Hospital Trust in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court.

(c) No, Sir.

Production of Low Sulphur and Low Phosphorus Pig Iron

1311. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of low Sulphur and low Phosphorus pig Iron, and ductile iron spun and pipe is much less than demand in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a public sector joint venture company has been set up to manufacture the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) . As per a Feasibility Report prepared by Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited (MECON) in 1994, the projected gap in availability of low sulphur low phosphorus pig iron by 1996-97 and 2001-02 in the domestic market is about, 2,67,000 tonnes and 3,91,000 tonnes respectively besides enough export potential. Likewise, the gap in the availability of Ductile Iron Spun Pipes by the above years has been estimated to the extent of 55,000 tonnes and 1,33,000 tonnes respectively.

(c) and (d) . Keeping in view, the projected shortfall in the availability of high grade pig iron and cast iron pipes, Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), MSTC Limited and MECON, which are PSUs under the Ministry of Steel, have promoted a new joint venture company to take up manufacture of low sulphur low phosphorus pig iron and ductile iron spun pipes with an annual capacity of 1,55,000 tonnes and 50,000 tonnes respectively which is expected to cost around Rs. 233 crores, While the three PSUs will participate in the equity of the JV Company to the

extent of 50% (maximum), the remaining equity will be offered to the public and financial institutions.

US Views on India's Candidature to permanent Membership in UNSC

1312. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Clinton Administration has any negative views in regard to granting of permanent membership status to India in the UN Security Council ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) . U.S.A. has supported candidatures of Germany and Japan for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. However, US has not taken any position on India's candidature.

Fleet Strength of DTC

1313. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the present day requirement of DTC buses in order to meet the 40 per cent of the overall requirement of the passenger buses in Delhi;

(b) as against (a) above, the number of buses which are held up in the DTC depots and which are or can be made road worthy;

(c) out of (b) above, the average number of buses which actually operate daily as per the latest available data;

(d) the steps being taken to meet the present deficiencies; and

(e) the requirement envisaged by the year 2000 and the manner in which it is proposed to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) As per recommendations of the Working Group on Road Transport for 8th Five Year Plan, the require fleet strength of DTC and private operators was assessed as under:

DTC buses	-	7419
Private operate buses.	-	2968

(b) and (c) . As on 29-2--1996, DTC has fleet strength of 2770 buses. Out of these 1692 buses are road-worthy and 1078 are lying held up for repairs.

(d) Recently the Government had provided Rs 10 crores to DTC for the repair of the buses and sufficient number of buses were put on roads. In addition to above, the Government have also provided Rs. 37 crores to DTC as ways and means loan.