

1991 as deadline to take action on the construction of Shri Ram Temple at Ayodhya;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to settle the issue amicably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The matter is subjudice and the issue primarily concerns the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Central Government have not received any communication from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard.

[English]

#### **Suicide by two Indian students in Moscow**

2221. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Indian students have reportedly committed suicide in a Moscow hotel; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to obtain complete details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government were informed by Indian Embassy in Moscow on 8th July 1991 that Shri Sanjay Shandilva and Kumari Shalini Goyal reportedly attempted to commit suicide on 6th July 1991 by jumping from the latter's fifth floor hostel room in Moscow. Subsequently, both, unfortunately succumbed to their injuries.

(b) The Indian Embassy in Moscow has been in constant contact with

the appropriate Soviet authorities with a view to ensuring that proper investigations into the tragic incident are conducted. Soviet authorities have conducted detailed post mortem on the bodies. The police investigation report is awaited.

#### **Indo-USSR Treaty on Peace, Friendship and Co-operation**

2222. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to renew the Indo-Soviet Peace, Friendship and Cooperation Treaty signed in 1971 which is due to expire in August, 1991; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) In accordance with Article 11 of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, the Treaty stands automatically extended for a further period of 5 years.

[Translation]

#### **Indo-Nepal talks on Water Resources**

2223. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral talks held in April, 1991 in the second meeting of Indo-Nepal Sub-Commission on Water Resources; and

(b) when the next meeting is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) It was agreed to complete the studies on Pancheshwar and Karnali Projects, jointly finalise the extension of river embankments at border, and expedite setting up of flood forecasting Stations in Nepal.

(b) Next meeting will be held on dates mutually convenient to India and Nepal.

[English]

### **Modernisation of Integrated Steel**

2224. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the modernisation of the integrated steel plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);

(b) the total amount including foreign exchange likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the country will be self sufficient in steel after their modernisation; and

(d) the time by which the modernisation work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB):

(a), (b) and (d) The status of the modernisation projects in respect of the four Integrated Steel Plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is as follows:

The Modernisation Project of Durgapur Steel Plant is already under execution. While the progress in respect of certain packages of work has not been in accordance with the schedules drawn, the overall completion schedule of March, 1993 set for the whole project is likely to be adhered to. The sanctioned definitive cost estimate for the project is Rs. 2667.6 crores, inclusive of a foreign exchange component of Rs. 685 crores.

The modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant is being taken up in two phases—Phase-I consisting of 9 indigenous packages is likely to be completed by July, 1993. Phase-II consists of 15 indigenous and 5 global

packages. Orders for 10 out of 15 indigenous packages have been finalised. The bids for the global packages are being scrutinised. The likely date of completion of Phase-II is October, 1995. The sanctioned cost of modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant is Rs. 2461 crores, inclusive of a foreign exchange component of Rs. 396 crores.

A proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 1096 crores, inclusive of a foreign exchange component of Rs. 483 crores, for the modernisation of Hot Strip Mill and installation of the Continuous Casting facilities at Bokaro Steel Plant is at present under consideration of the Government. This module of modernisation is expected to be completed within 36 months of the placement of orders. An investment decision on the proposed project is yet to be taken.

Various options for the proposed modernisation of Burnpur Works of HSCO are at present under examination of the Government. An investment decision is expected to be taken shortly. The project is likely to take about 5 years for completion.

(c) Though the production of the Integrated Steel Plants would increase substantially consequent upon modernisation, there may still remain a gap between the demand and the availability in the country, in respect of some special categories of iron and steel.

### **Jharkand Issue**

2225. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the negotiations in connection with the demand for creation of a Jharkand State;

(b) whether the Government are considering a further round of discussion in near future on the subject with the concerned parties; and