

Setting up of new sponge iron plants

3841. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal under consideration of the government for setting up of new sponge iron plants in Public/Private Sector in various States and particularly in Orissa during the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Setting up of sponge iron projects in the Private Sector does not require Government approval. In so far as the Public Sector is concerned, Government have sanctioned preparation of detailed project report for a sponge iron plant to be jointly set up by Steel Authority of India Ltd. and Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. However, no investment decision on the project has so far been made and the location of the project has also not been finalised.

Setting up Indian Telephone Industries unit in Garhwal Region

3842. SHRI BHUJWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a unit of the Indian Telephone Industries in Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Anti-Social Activities of Inter-State Mafia Gangs in Delhi

3843. SHRI V.S. VIJAY RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-social activities of inter-state mafia gangs operating in Delhi, Noida and Ghaziabad are increasing; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to check such activities?

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) and (b) The registration, investigation and detection of crimes of all categories in States is the responsibility of the State Governments. As far as the Union Territory of Delhi is concerned, no such inter-state mafia gang is reportedly operating in the Union Territory of Delhi. However, strict vigil is being maintained in Delhi to avoid any such activity.

[Translation]

Enquiry into the Functioning of C-DOT

3844. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of enquiry Committees have been set up to look into the functioning of C-DOT Organisation and its former Advisor;

(b) if so, the findings of these Committees and outcome thereof;

(c) whether as a result a number of talented scientists have resigned and gone to foreign countries; and

(d) whether indigenous Rural Telephone Exchanges developed by this Institute have resulted in saving of adequate foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) No enquiry Committees have been set up. However, an expert Committee was set up by the Government in January, 1990 for assessment and evaluation of C-DOT. The Committee's report is under consideration of the Government.

(c) A number of engineers have left the C-DOT. Whether they have gone to foreign countries is not known to the Department.

(d) A number of rural telephone exchanges developed by C-DOT have been deployed in the network. Development of indigenous technology for rural exchanges by C-DOT has resulted in saving of foreign exchange that would have been required in the event of import of equipment or technology for rural exchanges.

Indian Citizenship to Bangladesh Refugees living in Pilibhit, U.P.

3845. DR. PARSHURAM GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some migrated persons

from Bangladesh are living in Pilibhit District of Uttar Pradesh;

- (b) if so, the number thereof;
- (c) whether all such refugees have been granted Indian Citizenship;
- (d) if not the number of such refugees who have not been granted Indian Citizenship so far; and
- (e) the time by which they are likely to be granted Indian Citizenship?

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 (e) According to the information available 113 applications for grant of Indian Citizenship from persons who are residing in the Pilibhit District of Uttar Pradesh and who had come earlier from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) have been received. Out of these, 111 persons had been granted Indian Citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Production of Wool in Rajasthan

3846. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of total wool production in the country being produced in Rajasthan;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for increasing wool production; and
- (c) the assistance provided by the Union Government to the Government of Rajasthan for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) About 40 percent of total wool produced in the country is being produced in Rajasthan.

(b) Following steps have been taken for increasing wool production:—

- (1) Upgrading of indigenous sheep through selective breeding and cross breeding with superior exotic germplasm.
- (2) Production and distribution of superior rams of exotic inheritance for large scale cross breeding in fields.
- (3) Assisting the State Governments to

strengthen the infrastructures in their sheep breeding farms.

- (4) Providing assistance for marketing of wool through State Government agencies.

(c) The financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the Government of Rajasthan for this purpose during 1990-91 is Rs. 32.50 lakhs.

Alleged conspiracy to kill Chief Election Commissioner

3847. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any conspiracy has been unearthed for the killing of the Chief Election Commissioner;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the persons identified therein;
- (c) whether the Government have made any security arrangements for the Chief Election Commissioner and the other employees of the Commission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor,

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) and (b) As per an unconfirmed report received in early July, 91 two Babbar Khalsa activists had been sent to Delhi in green Maruti to make an attempt on the life of Chief Election Commissioner.

(c) to (e) Adequate security arrangements have been made for the Chief Election Commissioner and other employees of the Election Commission on the basis of the threat perception in their cases. On receipt of the unconfirmed report, Delhi Police were sensitized and security arrangements were further strengthened.

[English]

Decontrol of Fertilizer Prices

3848. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to decontrol fertilizer prices; and