

computed by the Government for payment of dues. As HINDALCO accepted the condition, the matter was settled out of court. After adjusting the amount of dues already paid by HINDALCO during the court proceedings and the amount of additional electricity charges actually paid by HINDALCO to UPSEB for the period for which commitment had been given by the Government, net dues of HINDALCO for the period 4-10-1979 to 31-8-1983 worked out to Rs. 22,74,98,502. HINDALCO was allowed to pay the net dues in 48 instalments. Accordingly, HINDALCO has already paid Rs 6,63,54,176-, in addition to the payment of their current dues regularly. According to the schedule of payment of dues, the last instalment will be recovered by 31st December, 1987.

Payment of Commitment Charges of Rs. 70,000 per day to World Bank for unutilised loan for Railways

1476 : SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are paying commitment charges of Rs. 70,000 per day to the World Bank for a loan for the Railways which has not been utilised;

(b) since when we have been making the payment;

(c) the amount paid to date; and

(d) for how long more loan will remain unutilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). An agreement for a loan of 280.7 million was signed with the World Bank on 25-5-1984 for the Railway Electrification and Workshop Modernisation Project, Selection and appointment of a collaborator to assist the Railways in the implementing of the operation information system is a condition for effectiveness of this loan. Since this condition has not been fulfilled the loan

has not yet become effective. However, GOI has to pay to the Bank a commitment charge of 0.75% p.a. on the principal amount of the loan not withdrawn from time to time starting from 60 days after the date of the Loan Agreement. Thus, the commitment charges have started accruing from 25th July, 1984. These commitment charges on the total amount of loan works out to approximately Rs. 70,000 per day. No demand notice for this payment has been received from the Bank but the amount accrued upto 25th February, 1985 is approximately 1.225 million. It is expected that agreement with selected collaborator for the operation information system, will be signed by 15th April, 1985. The loan is likely to be declared effective by 30th April, 1985, when Railways can start utilising it.

Implementation of Vizag Steel Plant

1477. SHRI MOHAMMAD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the continuous delay and slippage in the implementation of the Vizag Steel Plant its estimated cost has risen to soaring height;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the factors responsible for continuous delay and slippage in its implementation; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for its completion as envisaged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Construction of the Visakhapatnam Steel Project commenced in February, 1982 and the project was scheduled for completion in six years in two overlapping stages. The first stage for production of 1.2 million tonnes liquid steel was scheduled for completion in four years.

A review of progress of construction of the project made in the middle of 1984 indicated that while certain activities were on schedule (drawings and placement of orders) there had been some slippages in some items such as the erection of structures and equipment. Having regard to the finances available and the very large financial requirements of the project, a thorough review of the schedule of the project was made in order to synchronise the implementation of the different interdependent segments of the project fully consistent with the technological and operating parameters matching the production planned in the project with the market, and ensuring that expenditure is incurred in an optimal manner. On the basis of this review the stage I of the project is expected to be completed by 1987-88.

The original estimated cost for the Visakhapatnam Steel Project was Rs. 2256 crores (based on first quarter 1979 prices). The cost estimates of the project were revised and based on fourth quarter 1981 prices, the revised estimate was Rs. 3897.28 crores; this was approved by Government in 1982. The main reasons for the increase in the estimated costs were increase in prices as well as adoption of latest technologies and changes in the scope of work.

The revised estimate of capital costs for the project taking into account the revised schedule as well as the price escalation since the fourth quarter of 1981, has yet to be finalised.

(c) The progress of construction is monitored by the Project authorities as well as the Government and remedial measures taken to ensure commissioning of the project in time. Regular review meetings are also held with infrastructure agencies for expediting the progress, and with equipment suppliers and consultants for proper coordination of progress of engineering and supply of equipment.

Reserved Quota of Services in Banks for SC/ST Candidates

1478. PROF. MANORANJAN HALDER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the scheduled banks are not maintaining the reserved quota of services for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates; and

(b) the bank-wise figures of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees *vis-a-vis* other employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The guidelines regarding reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are applicable to all public sector banks including Regional Rural Banks, and they are following the same. These guidelines are not applicable to other Scheduled Commercial Banks. The bank-wise figures of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees in the public sector banks are at given in the Statement attached.