

(b) and (c) Payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and relief to pensioners costs the exchequer approximately Rs. 70 crores and Rs. 8 crores per annum respectively. Therefore, the question of payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance has to be considered carefully with regard to their impact on the economic situation and the budget. The question of sanction for payment of this instalment is receiving the attention of the Government. It is, however, not possible to indicate any time limit for taking a decision in this regard.

Proposal for setting up and modernisation of steel plants

707. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals of Government to set up new steel plants or modernise steel plants during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Seventh Five Year Plan for the Steel Sector has not yet been finalised. However, Government have decided in principle to set up steel plants in Vijayanagar in Karnataka and in Daitari in Orissa. The commencement of work on the projects will depend upon the investment decisions which have not yet been taken. A Steel Plant at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh is already under construction.

Schemes for the modernisation of steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Burnpur have also been formulated.

Setting up of Mint/Press for Printing Currency at Panagarh, West Bengal

708. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA
SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to set up a mint/press for printing currency at Panagarh, West Bengal; and

(b) the present position of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA PODJARY) (a) and (b) Government have taken a decision to set up a new Mint at NOIDA, Distt. Gaziabad, U.P. Land has been acquired for the new Mint. An Officer on special Duty has been appointed in January 85. A Project Report is also under preparation.

It has also been decided, in principle, to set up a new Press for printing currency notes, for which Panagarh in West Bengal has been suggested as a site.

Allocation of funds for public sector steel plants during seventh Five Year Plan

709. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "Steel plants need more funds" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' of 26 June, 1985;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for public sector steel plants during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Planning Commission thereto ?