

(b) While the area under opium-poppy cultivation in Jhalawar District declined from 2082.19 hectares during 1982-83 to 1689.77 hectares during 1983-84, it increased to 1708.71 hectare during 1984-85. There is a demand from cultivators to increase the area and to accommodate more cultivators

(c) The question of the price of opium payable to cultivators is examined by the Annual Departmental Narcotic Conference, keeping in view the income from poppy crop as compared to the income from other cash crops cultivated in the poppy-growing areas, the international market situation for opium, etc. Accordingly, for the crop year 1985-86 the question of the price of opium payable to cultivators will be examined, at appropriate time, keeping all the relevant factors in view.

**Setting up of second Steel Plant at Daitari
in Orissa during Seventh Five Year
Plan**

742. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMAN-
GO :
SHRI S.M. GURADDI :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

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

(a) the steps taken by his Ministry for setting up second steel plant at Daitari in Orissa during the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) when the proposal was cleared by the Planning Commission ;

(c) the reasons for delay in execution of Project during Sixth Plan ; and

(d) the funds provided by his Ministry to start the Project and provision made during the financial year 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The Feasibility Report for the first phase of the Daitari Steel Plant in Orissa prepared by MECON has been received

by the Project Authorities. The notification for the acquisition of land has been issued by the State Government. Soil investigations have been completed—as also studies on the availability of water. Some other studies on provision of infrastructure facilities for the proposed plant are under way.

(b) Investment decision in respect of the plant has not yet been taken. This will be done only after obtaining the views of various appraising agencies including the Planning Commission.

(c) Delay in the execution of the Project has been mainly due to the need to identify a cost effective technology as an alternative to the traditional blast furnace technology.

(d) During the current financial year a provision of Rs. 100 lakhs has been made for the Project.

Supply of G.I. pipes to Orissa

743. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMAN-
NGO : Will the Minister of STEEL,
MINES AND COAL be pleased to
state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa requested his Ministry to supply the G.I. pipes for sinking tube wells in the year 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(b) if so, the details of the indent made by the Orissa PHEO and supplied by the steel plants so far; and

(c) the steps taken by his Ministry to supply the raw material to Orissa PHEO for sinking drinking water tube wells on priority basis in these years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) No request has been received from Government of Orissa for supply of G.I. pipes for sinking tube well in the year 1984-85 and 1985-86. G.I. pipes are not manufactured in the integrated steel plants. Production and supply of G.I. pipes are not looked after by the Ministry.