[English]

## Salem Steel Plant

3866. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDA-RAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the original programme to set up a full fledged steel plant at Salem in Tamil Nadu has been shelved;
  - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
  - (c) if not, when it is likely to set up;
- (d) whether the existing steel rolling plant at Salem is likely to be expanded; and
  - (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEELL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e). Government are of the considered view that further development of Salem Steel Plant will have to be gradual and effected in stages. Accordingly, installation of the Second Sendzimir Cold Rolling Mill has been completed in March,

1991. Thereafter a scheme for installation of hot rolling facilities, envisaged to cost over Rs.425 crores and to go into production in April, 1995, has been approved by Government in April, 1991. Production from the facilities existing and now being installed at Salem Steel Plant will have to get stabilised before the next stage of the plant development is taken up.

## Demand of Telephone Lines in Karnataka

3867. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESH-WARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the main automatic exchange manufacturers in Karnataka are going to supply exchanges with 25000 lines capacity each during 1992-93;
- (b) if so, the total lines demand during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and
- (c) to what extent, it is likely to cover up the increasing demand of lines of the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE