

AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The traffic potential, commercial viability of the operations, availability of resources and their deployment, fleet availability and plan of operation of scheduled airlines and other such factors relevant to the construction of a new airport do not permit the possibility of a new airport being taken up for construction between Sri Ganga Nagar and Abohar.

Clearance to Telugu-Ganga Project

721. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has given the clearance for the **Telegu-Ganga Project**;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Telugu Ganga Project though techno-economically appraised by the Central Water Commission, its consideration was deferred by the Advisory Committee in April, 1988 as the project had not been cleared from inter-State angle. In order to resolve the Inter-State issues the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, convened by the then Minister (Water Resources) on 5.4.1990 could not materialise as the Chief Minister of Karnataka informed that the Chief Ministers would themselves resolve the issues relating to sharing of Krishna waters. The three Chief Ministers met twice in 1990. They are to meet again for consideration of the four tentative alternative

proposals that emerged during their second meeting.

[*Translation*]

Assistance for Flood Control in M.P.

722. SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided to Madhya Pradesh for flood control during 1991-92; and

(b) the places where the said amount has been spent by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No assistance was provided to Madhya Pradesh specifically for flood control as such during 1991-92. But, it has since been decided that allocation of plan funds for approved projects in the water sector will be earmarked from the beginning of the VIII Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Recruitment of Workers in Bokaro Steel Plant

723. SHRI BIRSINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on recruitment of workers in the Bokaro Steel Plant for the last five years;

(b) whether a large number of persons have been employed without following the prescribed rules of recruitment and against the policy of reservation and the ban;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a large number of irregular/casual workers have been made permanent without availability of vacancies there;

(e) if so, the facts and reasons thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken against such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

Construction of a New Airport in Cochin

724. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the development of existing airport at Cochin or construction of a new airport there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A final decision will be taken only when comparative cost of the three options viz. (i) the main runway be extended by 2000 ft.; (ii) the secondary runway be extended to

9000 ft. and (iii) a new site be selected for the construction of a new airport, are evaluated.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Raising of Market Loans by HCL

725 SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) has taken any decision to raise loans from the market; and

(b) if so, the total amount of loan likely to be raised and the projects on which the amount is proposed to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir, Hindustan Copper Limited has taken such a decision.

(b) The requirement of market loans would depend on the investments which are undertaken during the VIII Plan and availability of other sources of finance such as budgetary support, suppliers' credit, loans from financial institutions etc.

The Company currently estimates the requirement of market loans at around Rs. 230 crores.

The main projects identified are as follows:

(1) Pollution Control at Khetri Copper Complex and Indian Copper Complex, Ghatsila.

(2) Khetri Smelter expansion.