

commission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities and for sending an observer mission to monitor alleged human rights violation in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the counter steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, the Government of Pakistan and Pakistan backed Non-Government Organisations have been agitating the alleged human rights violations in Kashmir before the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The Sub-Commission consists of independent experts. The Indian delegation has kept the Sub-Commission members fully apprised of the true picture of Human Rights situation in J & K, particularly the violation of human rights of the people of J & K due to Pakistan's support to terrorism in the State.

Sikkim Issue

1649. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of Sikkim was taken up during Prime Minister's recent visit to China; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). The fact that Sikkim is an integral part of India has been conveyed to the Chinese authorities on several occasions including Prime Minister's recent visit to China. The Chinese authorities are aware of India's position and have noted it.

New Steel Plant in Orissa

1650. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new Steel Plants in Orissa with the collaboration of Foreign Companies/NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A steel plant under the name of "Kalinga Steels (India) Limited" is proposed to be set up near Daitari in Orissa in pursuance of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Government of Orissa and Dr. Swaraj Paul of the Caparo Group, U.K. The Government of India have approved the foreign investment proposal for setting up this Steel Plant. The plant is projected to produce 1.5 Million Tons of HR Coils and 0.48 million tons of pig iron annually. The estimated project cost is Rs. 6400 crores which will be met through an equity of Rs. 1600 crores and a debt of Rs. 4800 crores. The Detailed Project Report is expected to be ready by July 1994.

Maintenance of National Highways

1651. SHRI SANDIPAM BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:-

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the maintenance of National Highways during each of the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and