

(d) The Commissioning schedule of these schemes will depend on the investment decision by the Government and tying up of essential inputs like environmental clearance, availability of funds etc.

Handing over IISCO to TISCO

*672. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited to the Tata Iron and Steel Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government also propose to transfer 49 per cent of its equity to a non-resident Indian; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d). As directed by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission in the course of examination of the proposal for Modernisation of the Burnpur Steel Works of Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO), SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBI-CAP) has been retained to fully explore the possibilities of private participation in IISCO and for advising SAIL thereon.

SBI-CAP are in touch with the possible private (Indian, non-resident Indian and foreign) participants including TISCO and Caparo Group Limited, with which Shri Swaraj Paul, a non-resident Indian, is associated. Government are yet not aware of the details of the proposals made by the private parties.

SBI-CAP's report is expected to be received by SAIL in May, 1992. An appropri-

ate decision on private participation in IISCO will be taken after the report is received and examined fully.

Subsidy to farmers

*673. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any subsidy is being given by the Government to the farmers for purchase of sprinkler irrigation equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the amount of subsidy in view of high cost of equipments; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government is giving financial assistance to States for providing subsidy to farmers for purchase of sprinkler irrigation equipments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Intensive Cotton Development Programme, Oil Seeds Production Programme and National Pulses Development project.

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal.

Filling up posts of Executive Engineers

6998. SHRI SHASHI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regular and adhoc vacancies filled up the grade of executive