

(f) Information on investment opportunities and the ongoing economic liberalisation process in India is disseminated regularly through diverse channels among business circles, media and government organisations.

[English]

### Modernisation of IISCO

823. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to undertake modernisation of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the agencies entrusted with this plan; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the agreement signed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SON-TOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government have decided to allow private sector participation in the equity and management of IISCO for the purpose of ensuring expeditious modernisation of its Bumpur Steelworks. Government proposed to introduce a Bill for empowering Government to allow Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to transfer its shareholdings in IISCO to private persons for this purpose. The Bill is currently under consideration of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

(b) and (c) No agreement has been signed in this regard by Government. After the proposed Bill is enacted and other procedural requirements met, SAIL and the identified private sector participant, may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement containing all the terms and conditions of the transfer of shares and the various obligations of the two parties. The major terms and conditions are envisaged to be related to (i) the time frame for modernising and enhancing the production of Bumpur Steelwork's to 1.5 mtpa of crude steel/year, (ii) schedule of investments to be made for this purpose, (iii) non-disposal of IISCO's assets, (iv) protection of employees interests, etc.

[Translation]

### Rates of Telephone Charges

824. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA  
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the rates of telephone charges in near future; and

(b) if so, the details with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.