

(i) Participation in "FLAG" Project (Fibre Cable link around the Globe) and (ii) "INMARSAT-P" Project will be funded out of VSNL's own internal resources. These two specific Projects would need funds starting from the last financial year of the 8th Five Year Plan viz. 1996-97. The funds will be obtained either from VSNL's own resources or Commercial borrowings or loan.

(d) VSNL/DOT has no proposals at present to raise funds from the domestic market for VSNL's projects.

Visit of Chinese Delegation

1144. SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Chinese delegation has held discussions with the Government recently on the export of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreements have been signed regarding export of steel/rails and import of blend coking coal from China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b). An 8 member delegation led by Mr. Wu Xichun, Vice Minister, Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, People's Republic of China visited India in July, 1994, and held discussions with the Government on several issues pertaining to the steel sector.

(c) and (d). No agreement has been signed during the visit of delegation.

However both sides agreed to set up

working Groups to cover the following areas:-

i) Working Group on Technical Cooperation in the Steel Sector.

ii) Working Group on Iron Ore and Manganese Ore.

iii) Working Group on Imports and Exports of Steel Products.

[Translation]

L.P.G. Facility in Bihar

1145. SHRI RAMDEW RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether L.P.G. facility is available in all the District and Tehsil Headquarters of Bihar;

(b) if not, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal has been received for making such a facility available in Garhwa and Palamau districts of Bihar; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) On the basis of market survey conducted by the Industry on its own or on public demand, locations having a population of 20,000 and above as per 1991 Census are considered for setting up of LPG distributorships subject to economic viability