

determination of measures to be adopted with respect of the company. Any Scheme to be taken up for modernisation of IISCO will therefore have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

4. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

- In order to reduce the adverse impact of high capital related charges, Government of India has approved capital restructuring of the company.
- Both short term and mid term measures are being taken to achieve 100% capacity utilisation by the year 1996-97.
- Reduction in the manufacturing costs is being given adequate thrust to improve the net realisation.
- Optimisation of product mix in order to produce more high value added items.
- Engaging foreign specialists for training of VSP personnel in operating plants abroad and at VSP and also to render technical assistance to reduce the time for stabilisation and absorption of new technology.

[Translation]

Unutilised aid in power sector

801. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Huge Unutilised aid in Power Section" appearing in 'Business Standard' dated October 24, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the steps being taken for full utilisation of this aid amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the unutilised amount of external assistance for power projects under the Ministry of Power at the end of October, 1994 was Rs. 20,365.10 crores.

(c) The Central Government is closely monitoring the progress of externally assisted power projects with a view to removing the various impediments in project implementation with a view to improving the utilisation of external assistance.

[English]

Cost of power projects

802. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of power projects approved by the Cabinet Committee for Foreign Investments is extremely high;

(b) if so, the comparative cost of World Bank and Asian Development Bank funded power projects in the country; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) CCFI does not approve the cost of power projects. Cost estimates of power projects (costing more than Rs. 100 crores) are examined and approved by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) at the time of techno-economic clearance of projects.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of bye-passes in Bihar and M.P.

803. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed and under construction bye-passes on National Highways in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the funds earmarked for this purpose; and

(c) the date by which these bye-passes are likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No bye-pass is proposed to be constructed during the 8th plan period nor there is any bye-pass under construction in Bihar. However, in Madhya Pradesh, four bye-passes are proposed to be constructed during the 8th plan. Out of these, work on Jabalpur bye-pass is in progress.

(b) Funds are allocated State-wise for all National Highway works including bye-passes.

(c) The work on Jabalpur bye-pass, is likely to be completed by March, 1997. For the remaining proposed bye-passes in Madhya Pradesh, work on which is yet to commence, it is too early to indicate the completion date.

[English]

Funds for telecom development

804. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allotted for telecom development for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, circle-wise;

(b) the details of demand for telephones in proportion to the population, circle-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the allotment of funds to each circle to meet the demands thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The relevant information is given in the *Statement-I* attached.

(b) The information is given in the *Statement-II*