

small scale industries. To facilitate timely sanction of adequate credit facilities, banks have been asked to ensure that branch managers are vested with sufficient discretionary powers and enforce strict time discipline in dealing with such credit proposals. Reserve Bank has prescribed simplified formats for applications to be filled in by intending borrowers. SIDBI has also been assisting units in SSI Sector through its Refinance Scheme. The Refinance Assistance sanctioned to small scale units in Giridih and Dhanbad districts of Bihar during April to December, 1990 amounted to Rs. 26.51 and 392.31 lakhs respectively. RBI has also reported that the number of borrowal accounts and outstanding bank credit involved in the SSI Sector in Bihar show an increasing trend.

#### **Payment of Power Dues by Bhilai Steel Plants**

139. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board outstanding against Bhilai Steel Plant; and

(b) the reasons for the non-payment of this amount till date by Bhilai Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b). The matter pertaining to the outstanding dues from Bhilai Steel Plant to Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has been

settled to the mutual satisfaction of Bhilai Steel Plant and Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board on the 17th February, 1991 and all outstanding amounts due to MPSEB have been fully paid by the Bhilai Steel Plant. There is now no outstanding payment to be made to MPSEB.

#### **Election Petition pending in Supreme Court and High Courts**

140. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election petitions filed during the last Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country, court-wise; and

(b) the number of such petitions pending before the various High Courts/Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) and (b). The Election Petitions relating to Lok Sabha and Assembly elections are filed before the High Courts and only appeals against the orders of the High Courts in such election petitions lie with the Supreme Court. Three Statements I, II and III) showing the number of election petitions and appeals filed, disposed of and pending before the various High Courts and the Supreme Court pertaining to the last Lok Sabha and the Assembly elections held in November, 1989 and February-March, 1990 as on 13.2.1991, as made available by the Election Commission, are attached.