

Modernisation of Durgapur and IISCO Steel Plants

384. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any final decision regarding the modernisation of Durgapur and IISCO Steel Plants; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) While Government have already sanctioned the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant, execution of which is underway, the investment decision for modernisation of Burnpur Works of the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO), is likely to be taken soon after various options for the project are considered and final view taken.

[Translation]

Linking of Veerpur with Supol in Bihar through STD

385. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link Veerpur with Supol in District Saharsa of Bihar through STD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in these areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAIAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both Veerpur and Supol are proposed to be provided with STD facility by connecting them to Patna.

(c) It is planned to provide this facility during 1992-93.

[English]

International Military Education and Training Programme

386. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the US House of Representatives has recently passed an amendment as part of the foreign aid authorisation bill for the financial year 1992-93 which refers to the International Military Education Training Programme for India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have issued the following statement:

"There is no question of the Government of India accepting any conditionalities for such exchanges. In any case, these programmes are intended for mutual benefit and India is not the sole beneficiary.

"The Amendment by implication casts an unwarranted slur on our Armed Forces who, in the face of sustained and widespread terrorist violence and extreme provocations, have been acting bravely and with utmost restraint. They are operating against terrorists who are being infiltrated from across the border after being trained and heavily armed and who seek shelter behind innocent civilians.

"Our Armed Forces are renowned as a thoroughly trained and highly disciplined force. They need no lesson from others in compassion, morality or application of human rights and humanitarian standards".