

(c) if so, whether any State Government has entered into any agreement with any foreign company/NRIs in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) Due to resource constraints, it would not be possible to set up new steel plants in Public Sector.

(b) In view of the recent amendments in the licensing requirements, issue of Letter of Intent for setting up steel plants would not be necessary. The State Government can, therefore, formulate their own project proposals for setting up of steel plants. However, their proposals for foreign collaboration and foreign/NRI investment would be considered by the Government of India in accordance with the existing policy.

(c) and (d). According to information received from the Government of Orissa, the State Government has on 1st November, 1991 entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dr. Swaraj Paul of the Caparo Group to set up an integrated steel plant in Orissa. It has been indicated that the Caparo Group will arrange a financial package i.e. including foreign currency and rupee components. The time for completing the steel plant has not been decided. The State Government has further intimated that though the broad outlines have been incorporated in

the MOU, the details are to be worked out and if necessary, the terms of the MOU will be modified and detailed in agreement in due course.

Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

4664. SHRI SAI PRATHAP AN-NAYYAGARI:
SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KON-ATHALA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include some irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh especially in Rayalaseema area in the Eighth Five year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details including the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). In addition to 4 major and 4 medium on-going irrigation projects namely, Srisailem Right Bank Canal, Telugu Ganga, Tungabhadra High Level Canal Stage-II, Pulivendla Branch Canal and Cheyyeru, Vardaraja Swamigudi, Bug-gavanka and Maddileru respectively, the State Government has proposed to include 4 new schemes in the Eighth Plan. The details of the new schemes are as under:

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>District benefited</i>	<i>Estimated cost (Rs. crores)</i>	<i>Irrigation potential (hectares)</i>
1	2	3	4	5
A. Major Projects				
1.	Sunkesula Barrage	Kurnool	33.92	Off take structures for Kurnool Cuddapah Canal.
2.	Aleganuru Reservoir	Kurnool	28.00	Balancing Reservoir. 3.
3.	Galeru Nagari Sujala Sravanti	Chittoor	1296.37	131,500
B. Medium Project				
1.	Puttakanuma	Anantapur	4.78	9,915

**Invitation to President of Russia and
Other Republics**

4665. SHRI M.V. CHAN-
DRASEKHARA MUR-
THY:
SHRI VILASRAO NAG-
NATHRAO GUNDE-
WAR:
SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNA
WASNIK:
SHRI CHANDRA JEET
YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-
FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has extended invita-
tion to the President of Russia and other
Republics of USSR to visit India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and their
response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AF-
FAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Presidents of the
Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus,
Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Turkmenistan and
Tadjikistan have so far been invited to visit
India. The dates of their visits are being
finalised through diplomatic channels.

**Closure of Steel Plants Due to
Non-Supply of Imported Carbon Steel
Scrap**

4666. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA
MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL be
pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of steel
plants in the country have been closed dur-
ing the current year due to non-supply of
imported carbon steel scrap;

(b) if so, whether the Metal Scrap Trad-
ing Corporation has not imported adequate

quantity of carbon steel scrap;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by
the Government to meet its demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH
MOHAN DEB) (a) It is not a fact that a large
number of steel plants in the country have
been closed during the current year due to
non-supply of imported carbon steel melting
scrap. However, production in the ministeel
industry has been affected due to the short-
age of imported steel melting scrap.

(b) and (c). Import of melting scrap
through the canalising agency, Metal Scrap
Trade Corporation (MSTC), has reduced
during the current year due to non-availability
of adequate free foreign exchange.

(d) Efforts are being made to increase
imports through MSTIC. The user industries
can also import scrap directly through the
use of Exim Scrips.

Import of Petroleum Products

4667. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA
MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS Will the Minister of be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigeneous production
of petroleum products is inadequate to meet
the internal demand;

(b) whether the Government propose to
import petroleum products during 1991-92;

(c) if so, the details of the countries from
where petroleum products are likely to be
imported;

(d) the details of the efforts being made
by the Government to boost the production