

The amount of Greek Drachmas 80 million has since been fully utilised. The objection raised by the Audit authorities was that the Mission should have settled the question of interest unambiguously before putting the funds in the Bank account. In order to avoid recurrence of such instances in future, all Indian Missions/posts abroad have been instructed to take adequate precautions in handling public funds.

[Translation]

#### KOEL KARO HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

2114. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position regarding construction work at Koel Karo hydro-electric project in Bihar;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to complete the said project within the stipulated period; and

(c) the provisions made during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) : Construction work at Koel Karo H.E. Project in Bihar could not be commenced due to paucity of funds. The Government of India sanctioned the scheme in November, 1991 for execution by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC). A provision of Rs. 406.20 crores had been made for the Koel Karo Project during the Eighth Five Year Plan. NHPC is expected to raise this amount, largely by issue of bonds. Given the state of the bond market during the last financial year and the current year, it has not been possible to raise resources through issue of bonds.

#### VACANCIES FOR SCs AND STs

2115. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in various steel plants in the country; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### SOFT LOAN FACILITY TO S.C.I.

2116. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cochin Shipyard, which has been facing great threat due to no fresh work of ship building through Shipping Corporation of India directly, has approached Finance Ministry for the soft loan facility;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide soft loan facility to Shipping Corporation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Shipping Corporation of India Limited placed order with Cochin Shipyard Limited for the construction of three LR-II Tankers of 86,000 DWT each in 1986. The Cochin Shipyard Limited have delivered two tankers and requested Government for revising the price of 3rd tanker to enable them to start construction work. For financing the increased cost : Shipping Corporation of India has approached this Ministry for budgetary support which is under consideration in the Government.

#### MODERN RICE MILLS IN WEST BENGAL

2117. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether four modern rice mills in West Bengal have been closed down recently;