

after the aforesaid Programme of Action is finalised.

(d) Does not arise.

**Mica Research and Development
Centre in Bihar**

2337. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Mica Research and Development Centre is being set up in Bihar this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b). The Mica Trading Corporation of India has proposed to set up mica Research and Development Centre in Bihar. The proposal is included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The centre will develop new process for the manufacture of new products; to carry out the routine testing of mica products; to develop new test procedures and product specification; to develop Data Bank on the properties and different grade of mica. However, it is difficult to say that it would be set up this year.

**Licences for Steel Manufacture to
Large Industrial Houses**

2338. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to impose a ban on issue of industrial licences for manufacturing of steel to large industrial houses;

(b) whether manufacture of steel in private sector will adversely affect public undertakings like SAIL; and

(c) whether Government will take expert view from SAIL in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) While formulating the guidelines for Industries for steel items and recommending individual proposals for approval, the interests of the public sector undertakings including SAIL are invariably kept in view.

**Merger of Song and Drama Division
with Directorate of Field Publicity**

2339. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :
SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Staff Artists and staff of the Song and Drama Division along with National Federation of Information and Broadcasting Employees have opposed the merger of the Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division;

(b) if so, the basis of their demand; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to discuss the proposal of merger with them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The All India Staff Artists and staff of Song and Drama Division and the National Federation of Information and Broadcasting Employees have opposed the proposal of merger of the Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division as it *inter-alia* entails reduction in staff. The matter is still under consideration and no final decision has been taken so far.

**Purchase of Copra by NAFED from
Nicobar**

2340. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NAFED has entered into purchase of copra from Nicobar group of islands and are purchasing the same from Car Nicobar, headquarters of Nicobar district; if so, the total purchases made so far; and