

(c) whether Government consider that British steel technology is adequate for steel making at a competitive level; and

(d) whether Government have approached any other alternative source also ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). SAIL are carrying out negotiations with the British Steel Corporation (Overseas Services) to explore the possibilities of their assistance in the modernisation of the Durgapur Steel Plant.

(c) and (d). Supply of equipment and technology will not be limited to British sources. The optimal choice of technology and equipment will be made after taking into consideration all relevant factors.

Assistance to Earthquake Victims in Himachal Pradesh

2474. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh have demanded any grant for earthquake relief work from Union Government in July, 1986;

(b) if so, the exact amount demanded by the State Government and the assessment and recommendations of the Central Team which had gone to the State to ascertain loss sustained and the relief to be provided;

(c) whether any amount had been provided by Union Government as relief till the end of July, 1986;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) A memorandum seeking central assistance for relief measures after the earthquake was received in May, 1986 from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (e). The State Government in this memorandum sought Central assistance

of Rs. 45.57 crores which has been increased to Rs. 95.68 crores during the visit of the Central Team in July, 1986.

As soon as the report of earthquake was received, a Reconnaissance Team was deputed to visit affected areas. Based on the recommendations of the Reconnaissance Team, an amount of Rs. 5 crores was released on 15.5.86 as ways and means advance to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for immediate relief works. Subsequently, a Central Team visited the State from 4th to 8th July, 1986 to make an on the spot assessment of the situation and requirement of Central assistance. The report of the Central Team is under consideration.

Implementation of Rural Development Programmes

2475. **DR. G. S. RAJHANS :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have recently urged upon the Project Directors of District Rural Development Agencies to make efforts to implement rural development programmes;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue necessary guidelines to State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, by when and to what extent the target of rural development programmes during the Seventh Five Year Plan will be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Apart from guidelines which have been issued, a series of three workshops were organised at national level for project directors of DRDAs and State Level officers covering most of the State/UTs in the country so that they are fully apprised of the various changes in the policies and procedures in the VII Plan under different rural development programmes.

(c) The targets in the VII Plan for the major rural development programmes being implemented by this Ministry are as follows: