

### Indigenous Steel Technology

3159. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether considerable part of the technology for modernisation of steel plants in the public sector is being obtained from abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons for inadequate availability of indigenous steel technology;

(c) whether MECON has any role to play in the expansion programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). The position regarding the availability of indigenous technologies for various modernisation packages and the extent to which technologies may have to be imported will be known only after the finalisation of the contracts.

(c) and (d). MECON is one of SAIL's principal consultants and is at present associated with the modernisation/expansion of Durgapur Steel Plant, Bhilai Steel Plant and Bokaro Steel Plant.

[*Translation*]

### Toy Banks

3160. CHOUHARY AKHTAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities in the country in which 'toy banks' for children have been opened by Government and the number of cities in which more such banks are proposed to be opened;

(b) the amount being spent annually by

Government on these banks and the number of children in the country taking advantage of this scheme;

(c) whether Government have prepared or are preparing any such scheme for children of rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The toy bank scheme is meant to be implemented all over the country.

(b) The scheme envisages collection of toys and hence the Government has not earmarked any funds for the scheme. As the toys collected are distributed among anganwadis, creches, children's wards in hospitals, foundling homes and orphanages, it is not possible to quantify the number of children taking advantage of the scheme.

(c) The existing scheme covers all children including those in rural areas.

(d) The details of the scheme are given in the Statement below.

(e) Does not arise.

### STATEMENT

#### OBJECTIVES

Child psychologists acknowledge that more than 75% of personality traits develop before the age of 5 years. Ensuring the proper physical, mental, and social development of children in the age group of 0-5 years is, in fact, an essential pre-requisite of harmonious growth and development of any society/nation.

2. Pre-school education is crucial for