

**Handing Over of N.C.C. Ground at
Ranikhet (U.P.) to Cantonment
Board**

354. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether orders to hand over NCC ground at Ranikhet (U.P.) to the Cantonment Board have been issued;

(b) if so, whether the local army authorities have transferred the ground to the Cantonment Board as per the award given by the former Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (c). The NCC Ground at Ranikhet classified as Category 'C' already vests in the Cantonment Board Ranikhet. On 18th August, 1984, an area of land measuring 0.803 acre out of the NCC Ground which was already built up was re-classified from category 'C' to category 'A-1'. The remaining area measuring 4.497 acres in the N.C.C. ground would continue to vest in the Cantonment Board in its present classification of category 'C' and is proposed to be developed as a playground subject to the condition that this area would be used as N.C.C. camping Ground, as and when required. Since there has been no change in the classification of the land which is proposed to be developed as a playground and it continues to be vested in the Cantt. Board, the question of issuing any instructions for its transfer to the Cantt. Board does not arise.

[English]

**Communication from West Bengal on
State Plan**

355. SHRI AMAL DATTA :
SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOW-
DHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a communication dated 23rd November, 1984 from the Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding the State's Plan; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step on the request made by the Chief Minister of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No final decision has been taken yet.

[Translation]

**Production Increase in Steel Plants
Under SAIL**

356. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the plants being run by the Steel Authority of India Limited are able to utilize only 79 per cent of their capacity while the capacity utilisation for the same year by M/s. Tata Iron and Steel Company is 106.3 per cent and if so, the reasons for such wide difference in capacity utilisation and if so, who is responsible for this; and

(b) whether Government will take measures to see that the Steel Authority of India Limited is able to increase its production over the production of Tata Iron and Steel Company; if so, by what time and the details therefor and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to production in 1982-83 when saleable steel production of SAIL and IISCO taken together was 5,672 million tonnes achieving 79% capacity utilisation

taking the average of five plants. During that year the capacity utilisation of Bhilai was 94% compared to TISCO's capacity utilisation of 106.3%. The main constraints in achieving higher capacity utilisation during that year were :—

- (i) Severe power restrictions imposed by the public utilities on the steel plants causing a loss of production in SAIL plants amounting to 0.443 million tonnes during the year.
- (ii) Fluctuations in and deterioration of the quality of indigenous coking coal affecting productivity of the blast furnaces as also the quality of hot metal, which, in turn, adversely affected ingot steel production and saleable steel production.

Efforts are being made to improve the supply of power and coking coal of right quality in close cooperation with the supplying organisations. The steel plants are making efforts to maximise their own limited captive power generation. As a long term measure, additional captive power generating units are being established at Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur and Bhilai Steel Plants. The technological deficiencies are being met through modernisation de-bottle-necking schemes already under consideration.

[English]

Regularisation of Posts of Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers in M.E.S.

357. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the posts of Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers against clear vacancies, have been filled on promotion on *ad hoc* basis only in Military Engineering Service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to regularise these promotions on regular basis from amongst eligible candidates awaiting promotion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b) In the Military Engineering Service, promotions to the posts of Executive Engineers have been made on an *ad hoc* basis. This became necessary due to the disputes on the seniority list of Assistant Executive Engineers in the Courts.

(c) Action is now in hand to fill the regular vacancies that arose in 1979 and 1980, as per the directions of the courts. Vacancies which arose in the subsequent years can be filled up only after the Supreme Court clears the draft seniority list of Assistant Executive Engineers, selected since 1969.

Measures to Curb Inessential and Non-Productive Expenditure

358. SHRI K., T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of several measures that have been initiated by Government to curb inessential and non-productive expenditure, as has been indicated in his radio talk on 10th January, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : It is a continuing process for the Government to initiate measures to curb inessential and non-productive expenditure. In recent times, Government issued orders banning creation of posts/filling up of vacancies, except in the most exceptional circumstances. Efforts are made through work measurement studies conducted by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance Internal Work Study Units in various Ministries, Departments to identify and locate surplus staff and prevent creation of avoidable posts. Measures have also been taken to curb office expenses like those on telephones, Staff Cars, consumption of petrol and performance of air journeys by non-entitled officers.