

(b) Government have no report in this regard.

Completion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

375. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the then Minister of Steel and Mines had announced that the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant will be commissioned for production in the year 1986 or 1987 and whether now minimum of two years delay is expected to occur in this regard;

(b) whether owing to delay in the construction of this, 3.4 M. Tonnes steel plant, the estimate cost has increased by about 4,000 crores since 1979;

(c) whether a meagre and highly insufficient amount of about Rs. 1400 crores has so far been allocated for this plant during the last 6 years commencing from 1979-80 to 1984-85; and

(d) if so, the steps Government intend to take to increase the allocation in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The 1st stage of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project for 1.2 million tonnes liquid steel was scheduled to be commissioned in February, 1986 and the second stage for total production of 3.4 million tonnes of liquid steel in December, 1987. Consequent on a review of progress of work in different zones and availability of funds, the time schedule for the project has had to be revised. The first phase of the project is now scheduled for commissioning in 1987-88 and the entire project by 1991-92.

(b) The cost of the project with the revised time schedule at current prices will be higher than estimated earlier, mai-

nly on account of escalation in prices. The revised cost estimate has not yet been finalised.

(c) and (d). Allocation of funds has been made to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project, taking into account the progress of work and availability of funds, as under :—

Year	Allocation of funds (Rs. in crores)
1980-81	71.00
1981-82	146.70
1982-83	250.00*
1983-84	437.00
1984-85	480.00

*In addition, a bridging loan of Rs. 43 crores was arranged from the State Bank of India. A proposal for augmenting the provision for 1984-85 by Rs. 160 crores through a supplementary grant is awaiting the approval of Parliament.

Report on Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen

376. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which Government are likely to consider the report of the Committee headed by the Raksha Rajya Mantri on re-settlement of ex-servicemen; and

(b) the time by which the recommendations made in the Report are likely to be implemented and the extent to which it will serve the interest of ex-servicemen to meet their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE :
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a)