

Soviet Assistance for Modernisation of Steel Plants

3374. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Soviet Union has offered assistance to modernise Bhilai, Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants;

(b) if so, the approximate cost involved and the terms and conditions of the offer; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) While the Soviets are participating in some packages for modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant and some individual schemes at Bhilai, Soviet Union has offered assistance to modernise Bokaro Steel Plant.

(b) and (c). As per the indications given in the techno-economic offer of the Soviets, the modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant is expected to cost Rs. 1100 crores. However, the final estimated cost and terms and conditions would be known after the DPR is finalised and investment decision taken.

Setting up of Sanskrit University in Kerala

3375. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Sanskrit University in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been finally cleared by Union Government; and

(c) if so, when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c). The Central Government has no proposal to establish a Sanskrit University in Kerala. However, the Government of Kerala proposes to establish a Sanskrit University in the State for which the Central Government has released an assistance of Rs. 1 crore. The State Government does not require prior approval of the Central Government to establish new universities.

Use of Computers by ICAR

3376. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computers being used by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other allied institutes under the Council;

(b) the cost price of each computer and since when these are being used;

(c) whether these computers are being maintained properly by experts; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred so far on maintenance of each of these computers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) The number of computers being used by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other allied institutes under the Council is 110.

(b) The cost of a computer varies according to the model. While the cost of a personal computer ranges between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-, a main frame