

Aluminium Project at Visakhapatnam

6150. SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a time-table has been drawn up to execute the Aluminium Project in Visakhapatnam District; and

(b) whether Government have also taken any firm decision about setting up a Smelter project in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). The question presently under consideration is the setting up of plants based on East Coast Bauxite deposits for export of the product. The exact scope of the project will depend on the product in demand and on the results of feasibility studies which are yet to be commissioned.

Import of Crossbar Telephone Exchange in Delhi and Bombay

6151. SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crossbar telephone exchanges in Delhi and Bombay have become such a source of irritation and annoyance to subscribers that they have been aptly described as both a cross and a bar;

(b) whether it is a fact that crossbar exchange equipment is being imported on a large scale, despite the unsatisfactory working of the exchanges at present in Delhi and Bombay; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) Crossbar exchanges of Pentaconta type first installed in 1967 in Madras, Bombay and Delhi, had some technical problems which 1908 L.S.—5.

resulted in inconvenience and annoyance to the subscribers. Systematic studies had been undertaken to identify the problems and improve and upgrade the performance of these and similar exchanges being manufactured at Indian Telephone Industries currently being installed at the rate of about 60,000 lines a year. The performance of the crossbar exchanges all over the country has steadily improved with the incorporation of necessary modifications.

(b) and (c). 150,000 lines of Strowger and 60,000 lines of crossbar equipment is being manufactured in India by Indian Telephone Industries. However, to meet the requirements of planned expansion for telephone exchange capacities, it becomes necessary to supplement the supplies from I.T.I. by suitable imports. Crossbar equipment of types other than Pentaconta, which are known to have better performance have been imported for this purpose. A 10,000 lines Swedish crossbar exchange was imported in 1974 on the basis of global tenders under a World Bank Credit and is working very satisfactorily at Idgh in Delhi network. Another 80,000 lines of Japanese crossbar exchanges have been ordered on the basis of global tenders against another World Bank Credit in 1975-76 for Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi.

Proposals are under consideration for further import of Japanese crossbar exchanges under a Yen Credit as these exchanges have given satisfactory service in other parts of the World.

संघ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा चुने गये डाक्टरों की नियुक्ति

6152. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के लिए संघ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा चुने गये