

Kashmir

8419. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the Statement made by Shri Agha Shahi Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Government of Pakistan on 19-3-78 to the effect that "U.N. resolution on Kashmir as not obsolete", and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government feels that the question of Jammu and Kashmir should be discussed bilaterally, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement.

Malfunctioning of Telephones of M.Ps

8420. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about the mal-functioning of the telephones installed at the residences of the Members of Parliament in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to bring about an improvement in the functioning of these telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir. Only 8 complaints were received.

(b) All the telephones working at the residences of the M.Ps. have been inspected, the outdoor and indoor plants checked thoroughly and defects found rectified. There is, however, some difficulty due to overloading of two exchanges from which M.Ps. are mainly served. A proposal for reducing overloading of these exchanges by transferring some areas to Jorbagh is under consideration.

Ferro-vanadium plant in Rairangpur of Mayurbhanj district of Orissa

8421. SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ferro-vanadium plant proposed to be established

at Rairangpur of Mayurbhanj District of Orissa as a Central sector core project has not been entrusted to the Orissa State Government;

(b) the project cost estimated earlier and the project cost estimated to reach now;

(c) the particular reasons for the Central Government not establishing it as a Central sector core project;

(d) whether Mayurbhanj is the notified backward District;

(e) if so, whether the proposed plant qualifies for concessional finance including 15 per cent outright subsidy, and

(f) what other assistance proposed to be provided by the Centre to the State Government for the said plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (c). Following detailed examination of the proposal of the Government of Orissa to set-up a ferro-vanadium plant a decision was taken that its implementation may be undertaken by the State Government as an export oriented project linked to technical and financial assistance from abroad. Government are, however, examining the technical and financial viability of the project related to the possibility of securing long-term exports of the ferro-vanadium production, irrespective of whether the project is taken up in the State or in the Central sector.

(b) The project cost initially estimated at Rs. 16 crores is now estimated at Rs. 18.50 crores based on 1975 prices.

(d) and (e) The proposed location of the plant near Rairangpur in the notified backward district of Mayurbhanj in Orissa would qualify for concessional finance, including 15% subsidy limited to Rs. 15 lakhs.

(f) The question of providing other assistance by the Centre to the State Government for establishment of the said plant would arise only after an investment decision has been taken.