

(b) No survey to ascertain the number of unemployed released Army officers and men from Almora and Pithoragarh districts has been undertaken.

(c) The following resettlement/rehabilitation schemes are offered to ex-defence personnel, including those from Almora and Pithoragarh:—

(i) Allotment of Army Surplus 'B' vehicles.

(ii) Allotment of tractors.

(iii) Allotment of agencies of National Textile Corporation, Sagar Salt and Photo Films.

(iv) Consultancy regarding the setting up of small scale industries and sponsoring the applications to the banks for loan assistance.

(v) In regard to the Ex servicemen desirous of rehabilitating themselves by setting up viable small scale industries and in need of loans from banks for the purpose, it has been decided to subsidise the rate of interest upto 50 per cent on these loans

(vi) The rate of interest payable by the ex-servicemen entrepreneurs on loans upto Rs. 5,000 will be 4 per cent per annum. The difference between the rate of interest charged by the bank and 4 per cent will be re-imbursed for a period of three years from the date of grant of loan.

(v.i) The rate of interest payable by the ex-servicemen entrepreneurs on loans above Rs. 5,000 and upto Rs. 25,000 will be 7 per cent. The difference between the rate of interest charged by the bank and 7 per cent will be re-imbursed for a period of three years from the date of grant of loan.

Further it is learnt that there are also some schemes undertaken by Director Sainik Kalyan, U.P. for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen belonging to Hill Districts.

Public Sector Steel Plant at Visakhapatnam

295. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

DR. P. V. PERIASAMY:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the setting up of a public sector steel plant at Visakhapatnam has been cleared by Government;

(b) if so, total cost involved and how Government propose to meet this expenditure; and

(c) how far the demand of steel in the country will be met after the commissioning of the said plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plant is estimated to cost Rs. 2,56 crores including the foreign exchange component of Rs. 30.20 crores. Foreign exchange requirements for the plant will be met through a Soviet credit of Roubies 250 million already made available and further credit likely to be made available by the Government of USSR after approval of the revised Detailed Project Report and finalisation of the division list of supplies. The rupee expenditure will be met from Government's budgetary resources and internal resources of SAIL.

(c) As per report (March 1979) of the Working Group on Iron and Steel set up by the Planning Commission, the demand for shaped products in the country is estimated at 9.745 million tonnes in 1988-89. With the completion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the expansions of existing steel plants, it would be possible to meet the demand for such products to the extent of 9.363 million tonnes per annum.