

Shortfall in production of Aluminium

543. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a shortfall in production of Aluminium during the last six months; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The monthly production of aluminium in the country registered an increase of about 18 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year till August, 1979. However, from September, 1979 there has been a step fall in production primarily on account of severe cuts in power supply to the aluminium smelters imposed by the concerned State Electricity Boards. The total production from 1-4-1979 to 29-2-1980 has been about 178,000 tonnes as against 193,954 tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

Liberalisation of Credit Rules by RBI, in respect of Large Borrowers

544. PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has liberalised its credit rules in respect of large borrowers; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the new rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). The stipulation made by the Reserve Bank of India in August 1979 restricting the cash credit limits of Rs 25 lakhs and above has not been altered. However, with the object of speedy disposal of cases and to reduce the time lag involved in providing marginal relief to borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India introduced in

February 1980, a procedural change, for the processing of applications which are made to banks for additional credit requirements, arising out of increases in production and/or market dislocations.

Expediting the Commissioning of Aluminium Plant at Ratnagiri

545. PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of expediting the commissioning of the public sector aluminium plant at Ratnagiri in the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what are the difficulties in expediting the project;

(c) whether there are any proposals to start alumina project at Ratnagiri instead of aluminium project; and

(d) if so, by what year the project is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL & MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Soon after the Ratnagiri project was sanctioned in 1974, it was found that the project could not be taken up for implementation owing to financial constraints. Subsequently feasibility studies have been made for setting up an alumina/aluminium complex in Orissa and an alumina project in Andhra Pradesh based on the huge bauxite deposits which have been recently discovered on the East Coast. After examining the techno-economic aspects of all these projects, investment decision will be taken in respect of new alumina/aluminium plants to be set up in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.