

Delay in Expansion Scheme of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

1567. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur can come out of the red only if the Centre clears soon its long-delayed expansion scheme to make the plant viable; both technically and financially;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to make the plant viable; and

(c) reasons for the delay of the expansion scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Alloy Steels Plant made profits in 1977-78 and 1978-79. Nevertheless a scheme for increasing capacity from 100,000 tonnes to 160,000 tonnes of ingots per year is already under implementation and is expected to be completed by January 1981. To improve availability of power to the plant a captive power plant to serve both Durgapur Steel Plant and the Alloy Steel Plant is also being set up.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Trade Delegations

1568. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trade delegations from foreign countries visited India during the current year;

(b) the salient features of the agreements signed with each of them; and

(c) whether Indian trade delegations have also visited abroad during

the said period, what are the names of the countries visited and the result of their visit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Trade delegations as stated below visited India during the current year:—

(i) *Import Survey Mission from Japan.*

A seven member import Promotion Mission from Japan visited India from March 13th to 25th, 1980. The purpose of this mission was to identify items that can be exported to Japan from India. No Trade Agreement was signed between the two countries during the visit of this mission.

(ii) *Visit of Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Trade Industry.*

The Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Trade and Industry visited India in January, 1980 on the invitation of the Commerce Minister. Discussions of a general nature were held by the Commerce Minister with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister.

(iii) *Tunisian Delegation*

A four member Tunisian delegation led by Shri Bouzid Hessein Chef'de Cabinet to the Minister of Commerce, Government of Tunisia visited India from 10—17 February, 1980. Detailed discussion took place with a view to evolving suitable measures for increasing trade between India and Tunisia and to explore areas of industrial sectors in which India and Tunisia would collaborate for mutual benefit. The Tunisian side expressed specific interest in purchasing rice, tea, coffee etc. from India. The Indian side expressed their continued interest in purchasing phosphoric acid from Tunisia in increasing quantities. At the end of the Joint Commission meeting both sides