

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Instructions exist for the regularisation of Casual and time-scale labourers subject to their fulfilling the necessary qualifications and the existence of regular vacancies.

Soviet Assistance for major projects

1783. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) which are the major projects such as Steel and alumina for which Soviet assistance would be available; and

(b) what is the quantum of such assistance—both in terms of money and technical know-how and their break up project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The major Soviet aided projects in the steel sector concern their cooperation in the expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant from 2.5 MT to 4.0 MT capacity and Bokaro Steel Plant from 1.7 MT to 4.0 MT capacity. In the case of Bhilai, the assistance is in the form of credit facilities and services of technicians, to be met from out of the 300 million roubles credit of 1966. In respect of Bokaro the assistance includes preparation of the DPR, working drawings, supply of equipment and materials not available in India, design supervision during erection and training of Indian technicians in the USSR. All this is being met from the credit of 200 million roubles provided by the 1965 agreement as well as credit of 85 million roubles subsequently provided from the unutilized portions of credit of some other projects in the country. Soviet credit of the order of 250 million roubles is also available for the setting up of the first stage of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant which is to have an initial capacity

of 1.2 MT to be ultimately expanded to 3.4 MT.

M/s. Tsvetpromexport of USSR prepared a feasibility report for an alumina project having a capacity of 600,000/800,000 tonnes capacity per year based on the east coast deposits. This report is currently under examination by the appraisal agencies in the Government. Commercial and financial aspects of the project are to be sorted out with the Soviet authorities before a final investment decision is taken on the project. In view of this, it is premature to indicate the exact quantum of Soviet assistance for the alumina project at this stage.

Implementation of recommendations of Choksi Committee

1784. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a person or a panel to make suggestions for simplifying the direct tax laws;

(b) and (c). whether Government have implemented the recommendations made by Choksi Committee; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes Sir. A proposal to appoint a Committee to make suggestions for simplification of direct tax laws is under the consideration of Government. The details are yet to be finalised.

(b) and (c). Out of 718 recommendations and observations contained in the Interim and the Final Reports, 18 recommendations have so far been implemented through the Finance Acts of 1978 and 1979 and Finance (No. 2) Act, 1980. Rest of the recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Government.