

Progress in the Construction of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

658. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
SHRI K. A. SWAMI:

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

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) whether the construction work of the plant is going on as per schedule; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions held with Soviet Union with regard to the Vizag steel plant recently?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). So far, only the preliminary infrastructural and pre-construction activities in respect of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant have been in progress at site. These have been proceeding as per schedule. Of the total estimated requirement of 27,000 acres of land for plant, township and off-site facilities, around 15,000 acres have already been acquired. Site-levelling works are in progress and over 11 million cubic metres of earth work had been completed till 31-1-1981. Works are also in progress in respect of the approach road, distribution systems for construction water and power, site offices, storage sheds, construction laboratory, etc. The State Government is taking action for the speedy rehabilitation of displaced families. Railways have also taken up work on a construction siding for the steel plant. Till 31-1-1981, the cumulative expenditure on the project amounted to over Rs. 50 crores.

The comprehensive revised Detailed Project Report for the Plant was submitted by the consultants on the 30th November, 1980 and has since been scrutinised by an expert committee set up by SAIL.

(c) Discussions have been held between M/a. Tajpromexport of Moscow

and Visakhapatnam Steel Project for the detailed engineering of the coke oven and by-product plant (excluding coke oven batteries and dry quenching station), sinter plant and blast furnace plant of the first phase of the project and details of the contract have been finalised.

ITDC Given more powers for promotion of Tourism

659. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:
SHRI H. N. GOWDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Tourism Development Corporation has been given more powers for promotion of tourism and development in the country which powers were earlier vested in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, what are they; and

(c) steps Indian Tourism Development Corporation have taken after attainment of these powers in the direction of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. I.T.D.C. which till recently has been concentrating mainly on hotels and transport is now being made into a more effective agency of the Department of Tourism in developing tourism in the country.

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

Proposed Strike by G.I.C. Employees

660. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation authorities sought and obtained Government's approval before introducing unilaterally modifications in the salaries and dearness allowance rates of the employees, to the latter's detriment;