

Updating the Technology in Steel Industry

4507. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to accord the highest priority to updating the technology in the steel industry in view of the rapid technological advances in steel-making in different parts of the world;

(b) if so, what are the schemes that will be undertaken for updating the steel technology during the current year and also in the Sixth Plan period;

(c) whether for increasing steel making capacity by nearly 10 million tonnes in the current decade, the Union Government have drawn up a programme for modernisation, addition of new facilities and setting up of green field site plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the need for continuing sustained efforts towards updating the technology in steel industry. A phased programme for effecting improvements through updating of technology and increased productivity is being implemented during the current Five Year Plan. Some of the important schemes identified for implementation, or further investigation, are lime dust injection in blast furnace, conversion of an existing open hearth furnace into twin furnace, partial briquetting of the coal charge feed in coke oven batteries, and revamping of Hot Strip Mill at Rourkela in line with the modern technology.

(c) and (d). Following are the major programmes for augmenting the capacity of saleable steel at the integrat-

ed steel plants in the current decade:—

(i) **Completion during VIth Plan (1984-85).**

4.6 million tonnes stage expansion of Bokaro.

4.4 million tonnes stage expansion of Bhilai.

First phase of Visakhapatnam Steel Durgapur, Bokaro and Rourkela, and Modernisation of TISCO

(ii) **Completion during VIIth Plan (1985-90)**

—Modernisation of Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela steel plants.

—Expansion of Bokaro to 4.75 million tonnes and addition of the VIth Blast Furnace,

—IV Converter Complex at Bhilai-Sinter Plant and technological improvement of Blast Furnaces at IISCO, Burnpur,

—2nd phase of Visakhapatnam Steel Project; and

—Phase I of second New Steel Plant. Plant.

Assets of Binny Mills

4508. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what are the liabilities and assets of the Binny Mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURESHED ALAM KHAN): The liabilities and assets of Binny Limited as on 30th June, 1980 are given in the enclosed statement.