

construction of the Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela; and

(b) how many contractors are working in the Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Hindustan Steel is a Private Limited Company and the number of officers corresponding to that of 'gazetted' and 'non-gazetted' status under the Government of India is 244 and 1118 respectively.

(b) 157.

#### Promotions to Higher Grades

238. { Shri Kodtayan:  
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that civilians working in Defence establishments are generally denied promotions to higher grades due to absence of sanctioned grades for them, especially in Poona area; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy this situation?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri V. K. Krishna Menon):** (a) Where higher grades exist and the recruitment rules provide for promotion of civilian personnel in lower grades to all or a quota of vacancies in the higher grades, such promotions are made. In other cases where recruitment rules provide only for direct recruitment from the open market to the higher grades there is naturally no scope for promotions.

(b) Higher grades in a cadre or service are sanctioned if they are considered necessary from the point of view of the work to be done; and provision is made in the recruitment rules for promotion to such higher grades if it is considered that suitably qualified personnel will be available for such promotion from the

next lower grades. Government do not propose to take any special steps in this connection.

#### Integration of Hilly Areas

239. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a Memorandum from the Himachal Integration and Hilly Region Committee for the integration of all hilly areas in Northern India and for saving hill Stations like Simla, Solan, Dalhousie, Kulu, Dharamsala and Bakloh from desolation; and

(b) if so, whether the Memorandum has been considered?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Yes.

(b) The decision for the continuance of Himachal Pradesh as a Union territory was taken after careful consideration and nothing has happened since to change the position. The suggestions regarding hill stations have been brought to the notice of the authorities concerned.

#### Neivell Project

240. **Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Russian and American aid on a package deal basis is being sought by Government for different components of the Multi-Purposes Neiveli Lignite Project?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** The Government of the U.S.A. have supplied a number of items of equipment under the T.C.A. Programme. They have also agreed to supply a pilot Briquetting and Carbonising Plant for investigating the optimum conditions for drying and Briquetting of raw lignite, and for manufacturing by-products.