Export credit to be provided by France for Paradeep Plant in Orissa

1754. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an element of uncertainty has been reported to have crippled in with regard to export credit to be provided by France for finalising the Paradeep Plant in Orissa;
- (b) if so, what are the main reasons put forward by the French Government for helping the Paradeep Steel Plant:
- (c) whether this decision of France will be a great loss to this project; and
- (d) whether any alternative source is being adopted to fill this gap that has arisen because of the French Government's reluctance to provide assistance to this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (d). Negotiations with M/s. Devy Mckee are in progress for finalising the technical specifications, commercial and financial terms of the contract for setting up the proposed steel plant. As the French credit forms a part of the total financial package, the position will be known only after the finalization of the negotiations.

Bonded Labour

1755. SHRI B. V. DESAI: SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has asked the State Govern-

ments to speed up the process of identification of bonded labour.

- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Union Government has been criticised of the slow implementation of this act promulgated in 1975 which abolished the system of bonded labour:
- (c) if so, whether process of identication of bonded labour in the States has been completed by now:
- (d) if not, how many States have not so far sent their proposals to the Union Government; and
- (e) what action Government propose to take against those States which have not fully implemented this Act?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Minister has requested the State Chief Ministers to order thorough surveys to ensure total abolition of the system without delay.

- (b) to (d). The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act. 1976, is implemented by the State Governments. The incidence of bonded labour system had been reported from ten States, viz, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala. Madhya Fradesh, Orissa. Rajasthan. Tamil Nafu and Uttar Pradesh. A statement is attached showing the number of bonded labourers identified, freed and rehabilitated, upto 31-1-82. Identification is, however, a continuous process.
- (e) The urgency of the task has been repeatedly stressed on State Covernments at meetings of State Labour Ministers as well as State Labour Secretaries. The State Governments are taking all steps to fully implement the Act.
- A Central Standing Committee on Bonded, Migrant and Casual Labour has also been set up to monitor progress in this regard.

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Statement

Identification refers and rehabilitation of bonded labour (31-1-82)

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