

(b) if so, what would be its size and to which industries it would provide funds for modernisation; and

(c) by what time, it is expected to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI): (a) No, Sir.

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

.. Visakhapatnam Alumina Plant

622. SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the proposed Visakhapatnam alumina plant which has been hanging fire for many years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Soviets are not prepared to provide finance for this project; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the same and what steps are being taken to overcome this difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c). The possibility of setting up an alumina plant in Andhra Pradesh has been under discussion with the Soviet authorities for sometime now. The main issues requiring resolution are:—

(i) the drawing up of a comprehensive package for financing virtually by Soviets the entire capital cost, including the rupee cost; and

(ii) arrangement to buy back on long term the whole, or a substantial part, of the alumina by the Soviets.

This project figured in the discussions in the Forth Meeting of the Working Group on Non-Ferrous Metallurgy of the Inter-Governmental Soviet-Indian Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation as well as the Seventh Meeting of the said Commission held at Moscow in September, 1982. After studying the earlier Soviet propo-

sals, the Indian side had handed over a set of new proposals to the Soviet Side relating to implementation of the project covering the aspects of bauxite and alumina export on long-term basis to the USSR, preparation of detailed project reports, pricing of bauxite and alumina and financing of capital investment. After these proposals are studied by the Soviet organisations further discussions would be held on this matter between the two sides.

Review of States Plans

623. SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had undertaken a review of the various States' Plans; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). The Planning Commission generally reviews the performance of the States' Plans at the time of the discussions on each Annual Plan. The formulation of the Annual Plan for 1983-84 has been taken up by the states. Discussions on the Annual Plan 1983-84 will be taken up from the month of October, 1982.

Cost of tenements under PWR scheme No. 219

624. SHRI BHAUSAHEB THORAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the ceiling of estimated cost of each tenement of the Backward Class Housing Society under the PWR Scheme No. 219; and

(b) the new ceiling proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). There is no such Scheme or proposal therefor in the Ministry of Home Affairs.