

pilot projects for environmental action ;

(b) if so, whether the National Committee on Environmental Planning had met during the month of August, 1982 and taken a number of decisions ;

(c) if so, the details of decisions taken and communicated to Government ;

(d) how many of them have been accepted by Government ;

(e) whether the latest proposal that all State Governments should be asked to set up suitable environmental organisations has been accepted by the State Governments ;

(f) if so, how many State Governments have set up such organisations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH) : (a) to (d). The Committee recommended setting up of suitable organisations at the State level for coordinated efforts in environmental programmes, such as restoration of vegetal cover in denuded areas through proper selection of species, creation of nurseries, effective control on grazing and over-exploitation of forests, and involvement of people in these projects. The Committee is working out the details of specific recommendations which will be shortly communicated to Government.

(e) and (f). The Department of Environment has requested the State Governments to set up appropriate administrative machinery to function as nodal agencies for environmental programmes. So far, Departments of Environment have been set up in five States.

Construction of Steel Plant in Orissa

1653. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Collaboration in the construction of a new Steel Plant in Orissa and several other projects in other States has been signed recently at the end of two days session of the Indo-Soviet Joint Economic Commission ;

(b) if so, what are the steel plants that are being built up with the help of Soviet Union ;

(c) to what extent the Soviet Union has agreed to provide aid and assistance ; and

(d) whether the Vijayanagar Steel Plant will also come under this agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b). At the meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission held in Moscow in September, 1982, the two sides exchanged views about possibilities of Soviet participation in the construction of the proposed Steel Plant in Orissa. In addition, the Commission reviewed the progress of work at Bhilai, Bokaro and Visakhapatnam Steel Plants where there are going programmes of Indo-Soviet collaboration. Proposals for Soviet collaboration for the modernisation of IISCO plant at Burnpur were also discussed.

(c) U.S.S.R. will provide credit for meeting cost of equipment and services to be supplied by them for Visakhapatnam Steel Project.

(d) No, Sir.