

(b) The location of Central Projects is based on techno-economic considerations. Every effort is made to spread Central investments in Public Sector Enterprises in as equitable a manner as possible.

**Less allocation of funds for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for 1983-84**

4066. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:  
SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:  
SHRI DEEN BANDHU  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cut down the allocation to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant considerably for the year 1983-84;

(b) if so, the total estimated cost of the project, envisaged provision for the year 1983-84 and actual allotment in the annual plan;

(c) reasons for the cutting down of the allocation; and

(d) whether Government propose to finance the project from outside help or loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (d). The revised estimated cost of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is Rs. 3897.28 crores. The annual allocations are based on physical progress keeping in view the capability of various agencies executing the work and making supplies and the availability of resources.

The allocation for 1983-84 has been fixed at Rs. 187 crores. Depending on further requirement, the question of providing additional resources will be considered at the appropriate stage.

The Soviets are providing credit for this project; some equipment are also being obtained under credit arrangements from other countries.

**Utilisation capacity of cable industry ..**

4067. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cable manufacturing industry is not able to utilise the installed capacity fully nor increase its exports;

(b) whether the cable manufacturers have urged Government for grant of incentives and improve the supply of aluminium; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c) The cable manufacturing industry is unable to utilise its installed capacity fully due to poor off-take of its end product by State Electricity Boards on account of paucity of funds.

The cable manufacturers approached the Government for making aluminium and steel available to them at International prices in order to effectively compete in the IDA/IBRD tenders. The Government have issued a notification on 15-9-1982 treating supply of IDA/IBRD aided projects on par with physical exports as a result of which the indigenous units can effectively compete in these tenders.

**Possibility of using CANDU reactors for slow breeding of Uranium-233 from thorium**

4068. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dept. of Atomic Energy has considered the possibility of using CANDU reactors for slow breeding of uranium-233 from thorium; and

(b) if so, whether this technology will be used for use of thorium in fuel cycle?