

(b) The value of grapes produced in the vicinity of Hyderabad is estimated at about Rs. 5 crores.

The main difficulty in marketing of grapes produced in Hyderabad is declining prices, which is due to rapid increase in areas under grapes in Hyderabad as well as in areas surrounding the main markets to which Hyderabad grapes are despatched for sale.

(c) Yes. The State Trading Corporation is sending trial consignments of grapes to different countries to explore the export market. There is also a cash incentive for export of fresh fruits and vegetables which includes grapes as an item.

(d) No, Sir.

Setting up of Steel Plants in Southern States

604. SHRI M RAJANGAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any further steps in developing the steel plants to be located in the Southern States ; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and when they are likely to be put into commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN).

(a) and (b). Consequent to Government decision to set up three new steel plants in the Southern States (*viz.* Mysore, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh), a number of Committees for selection of sites and linking sources of raw materials to the steel plants were appointed. On the recommendations of the Site Selection Committee, sites for the three new steel plants have been selected. The Salem Plant will be located in the Northern flank of Kanjamalai hill, 14 km west of Salem town ; the Hospet plant at Tonagalu, midway between Bellary-Hospet railway line ; and the Visakhapatnam plant at Balacheruvu about 25 km south of Visakhapatnam along the coast. On the joint recommendations of the Consultants and the Hindustan Steelworks

Construction Ltd. (a Public Sector Undertaking), the project areas have been earmarked. Land acquisition proceedings have commenced. The Committees on coal and on raw materials other than iron ore and coal have also submitted their reports. The Committee on Iron Ore will be submitting its report shortly but the linkage of Visakhapatnam plant to Bailadila ore and that of Hospet plant to Bellary-Hospet ore deposits has been decided. The Consultants for the preparation of the Techno-economic Feasibility Reports for all the three plants were appointed in February 1971. The Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Limited are the Consultants for the Hospet project, and Messrs M. N. Dastur & Co., Private Ltd for the Salem and Visakhapatnam plants. It is expected that the Feasibility report for Salem plant will be ready by the end of August, 1971, while those for the Visakhapatnam and Hospet plants are expected to be ready in November 1971. The Survey of India are undertaking detailed topographical survey work for all the plant sites. The printed survey maps are expected to be ready by the end of June 1971. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd., have been entrusted with the soil investigation studies. In the case of Salem project, HSCL will also undertake the exploratory work in respect of Kanjamalai iron ore deposits. The proposals of the State Governments for supply of water to all the three plants are being examined. The Railways have commenced their survey work for the provision of marshalling and exchange yards and railway sidings facilities etc. for the plants.

At this stage when the Feasibility Reports are still under preparation, it is too early to indicate when the plants will be commissioned.

Central Assistance for Dry Farming in Orissa.

605. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the places selected in Orissa for dry farming ; and

(b) whether Government has extended any financial assistance to Orissa in 1970-71 and 1971-72 for this purpose ?