

(c) The estimated expenditure to be incurred on the Central Sector is Rs. 25.82 crores and the work is expected to commence this year.

Low Production of ingots in Public Sector Steel Plants due to Detention of Railway Wagons

1639. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the detention of Railway wagons transporting steel ingots within steel plants has been found to be one of the major reasons for comparatively lower production of ingots in the public sector steel plants in the country ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Railway-owned wagons are not used for transporting steel ingots within the steel plants. If, however, the reference is to the detention of wagons carrying raw materials to the plants, while it is true that it is not possible to adhere to the free-time allowed by the Railways, this cannot be said to be a constraint on production of ingot steel. Every effort is also being made to release wagons quickly.

Engagement of Shri N. A. Palkhivala to plead India's case before International Court of Justice

1640. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have engaged Shri N. A. Palkhivala to plead India's case before the International Court of Justice on its aviation dispute with Pakistan ; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions on which he has been engaged ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri N. A. Palkhivala has not charged any fees from the Government of India for appearing in the case before the International Court of Justice. He has been given air fare to The Hague and back as well as usual daily allowance for his stay there

Setting up of a Zinc Smelter at Vishakhapatnam

1641. SHRI B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the progress made, so far, in setting up of a Zinc Smelter at Vishakhapatnam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : In connection with the setting up of the Zinc Smelter at Vishakhapatnam the Hindustan Zinc Ltd., who are implementing the project, have already submitted proposals for foreign technical consultancy. These are under examination in the concerned Departments of the Government of India. Arrangements for long term supply of zinc concentrates for feeding the smelter, with foreign suppliers are likely to be finalised soon.

Major portion of the land required has been acquired and orders are being placed for electrical equipment which will have long delivery schedules. Arrangements for water and power supply are likely to be finalised shortly with the State Government.

Agnigundala Copper Mines in Andhra Pradesh

1640. SHRI B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the progress achieved so far in the work at Agnigundala Copper Mines in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) the production capacity of the copper plant to be set up there ; and

(c) the time by which the production is likely to commence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Government have sanctioned a scheme for undertaking detailed exploratory mining and prospecting work at Nallakonda Copper Deposit in Agni-