

fabricated in the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation's Workshop reached the site at Govind Sagar in March, 1974 and assembly is expected to be started soon.

Decontrol of sale of Steel

504. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to decontrol the sale of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the likely date for the implementation of this decision; and

(c) the broad outlines of the procedure for sale subsequently?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). Despatches from the main steel plants are regulated by the Steel Priority Committee taking into account the end use for which steel is required, availability in a particular period and the competing demands. Utilisation of iron and steel materials for any purpose other than that for which these have been allotted or applied for is a penal offence punishable under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

There is no proposal to change the present system of steel distribution.

Number of Indians allowed to visit Pakistan and Vice versa

506. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PRASHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were given special permission to visit India after crossing the Indo-Pak border in the month of October, 1974;

(b) the number of Indians who have been allowed to visit Pakistan during the same period; and

(c) the main reasons governing the special permission granted to them to cross into the desired countries under this arrangement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) 229.

(b) 59

(c) Such permission was granted in order to allow persons from both countries to visit their relatives in connection with marriages, sickness or when there were bereavements in the families of relatives in either country. In addition, permission was granted on the occasion of the series of hockey matches played between the Asian XI and the Indian team.

Amount earmarked for Health/Family Planning Centres in Punjab

506. SHRI RAGHUNANDANLAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount earmarked for the Health Centres and Family Planning Centres in Punjab State; District-wise, for the years 1973-74 and 1974-75; and

(b) how much has been earmarked for the villages and towns of Amritsar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b). Allocation of Central assistance to the States for Health and Family Planning Programmes is made scheme-wise for the State as a whole and not district-wise. The distribution of the allocation district-wise and for different villages and towns is made by the State authorities themselves on the basis of local requirements. The total amount ear-