

of steel rods in the country. SAIL International Limited have taken measures to step up the export of bars. Government have no information about lay-off in steel re-rolling mills.

Employment of technicians and skilled Labourers in Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries

307. SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that a large number of technicians and skilled labourers are unemployed in Kerala State;

(b) whether employment is available for them in Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to find employment for them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) Precise estimates in this regard are not available. Available information relates to work seekers (all of whom are not necessarily unemployed) registered as "Craftsmen and Production Process Workers" with the Employment Exchanges in Kerala State. Their number was 39,290 as on 30th June, 1975.

(b) In recent years certain opportunities have come up in these countries for those Indian nationals whose experience and qualifications match the requirements.

(c) Government processes all the requests received from the Government, semi-Government and private undertakings from these countries expeditiously and renders all necessary and adequate assistance to them in the recruitment while at the same time safeguarding the interests of those recruited.

Ferro-Vanadium Plant in Orissa

308. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the further steps taken to commission Ferro-Vanadium Plant in the District Mayurbhanj of Orissa State;

(b) the total investment in the aforesaid Plant; and

(c) the preliminaries completed till to-date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) The proposal for setting up a Ferro-Vanadium Plant in the District of Mayurbhanj of Orissa State was approved by the Board of Directors of Steel Authority of India Ltd. on 10th November, 1975. The proposal is now under consideration of the Government for an investment decision.

(b) The total investment envisaged in the aforesaid Plant is about Rs. 16 crores.

(c) A feasibility report has been made by M/s. M.N. Dastur & Co. An Expert Group constituted by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has examined the geological prospecting data establishing a mineable ore reserve of Vanadi-ferrous ore in the Mayurbhanj District and the adjoining regions of Orissa State.

Number of Mini Steel Plants in the country

309. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how many mini steel plants have been set up in the country, State-wise total investment; in these plants to-date and state-wise installed capacity of the plants;

(b) how many plants, State-wise, have been closed down to-date;