

1965 to 31st March, 1969 and thereafter 100 per cent loan assistance, The West Coast Road was included in the National Highway System on 7th March, 1972 and since then the entire cost of development, improvement and maintenance of the road is being met by the Central Government.

The proposal of the State Government is that not only the excess expenditure on the individual works which is not admissible according to the terms and conditions for the grant of financial assistance for the West Coast Road) should be borne by the Central Government but also that the entire expenditure should be treated as grant-in-aid as against 100 per cent loan assistance granted with effect from 1st April, 1969. The matter is under consideration.

Jim Corbett Commemorative Postage Stamp

2451. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH BOKHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jim Corbett commemorative postage stamp has been issued by the Government;

(b) if so, whether any blunder or mistake has been committed in it; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was a printing error at one place on the cover page of the folder issued in connection with the stamp.

(c) The Information and Broadcasting Ministry are examining the question of taking action against the printer.

Mini Steel Plants

2452. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL; SHRI VEKARIA:

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

(a) number of mini steel plants set up in the country, State-wise, during the last three years;

(b) number of those working at present and number thereof closed down; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steel Plant based on Kudremukh Iron Ore

2453. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the construction of a steel plant based on Kudremukh iron ore; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far for the preparation of feasibility report for the construction of the plant?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dialling of S. T. D.

2454. SHRI NIMBALKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how often on an average a person should dial STD telephone numbers until he gets the desired number;

(b) how often wrong numbers occur; and

(c) what efforts Government are making to remedy this fault?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) No statistics are available regarding the number of attempts required for the successful calls. However, more than one attempt to get the desired number is needed when there is, among others, congestion due to heavy traffic and also when the called subscriber's number is busy.

(b) The occurrence of wrong numbers on S.T.D. calls is negligible.

(c) To overcome deficiencies such as dropping of STD calls, channel flicks, contact pitting etc., a series of circuit improvements are being incorporated particularly in crossbar type trunk automatic exchanges which are being modified as per investigations and recommendations of the Task Force. A Departmental Committee has also been set up to investigate into the causes of the shortcomings in the working of STD and to suggest remedial measures. With the implementation of their recommendations, the STD Service is expected to improve further.

Non-deposit of EPF by M/s. Giri Land and Finance Co., Delhi

2455. **SHRI G. P. YADAV:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times M/s. Giri Land & Finance Company, Delhi had become defaulter in paying Employees' Provident Fund and E.S.I. Deposits during the last three years; and

(b) how many times they have been prosecuted/fined for not depositing the amount, with Government in time?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): The Provident Fund Authorities and Employees State Insurance Corporation have reported as under:—

(a) and (b). M/s. Giri Land and Finance Company, Delhi is not coverable under the Employees Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. Therefore the question of not paying the provident fund and employees' state insurance dues does not arise.

Chemical raw materials of HSI.

2456. **SHRI VEKARIA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the production of chemical raw materials of Hindustan Steel Limited, Calcutta, are shared by monopoly and big Business Houses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): Hindustan Steel Limited have reported that the by-product chemicals produced by them are supplied to industries which have set up their own plants and use them as raw materials and to other interested buyers, preferably consumers, in accordance with the business requirements of the Company.

Advisory Committee on Philately

2457. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Advisory Committee on Philately has been reconstituted; and

(b) if so, the date of the constitution of the present committee and its composition?