

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Government has no information whether the United States had made any such request and whether France and the Federal Republic of Germany have rejected it. However, it is true that France has reached agreement with Pakistan and the Federal Republic of Germany with Brazil involving the construction of reprocessing plants in those countries.

(b) The Government of India has consistently stood for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and has been opposed to its use for making nuclear weapons.

**Allotment of Money for Improvement of National Highway No. 43**

1326. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted any funds for the improvement of National High Way No. 43 in Ghat area from Jeypore to Salur;

(b) if so, the amount allotted;

(c) whether any funds allotted previously is pending utilisation; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During 1975-76, a sum of Rs. 15.10 lakhs has been allotted.

(c) and (d). Presumably, the Member is having in mind unspent balance, if any, lying with the State Governments concerned out of the allotments made for the road in question from time to time. The question of any unspent balance lying with the States in the case of National Highways however does not arise as National Highways

being a Central subject, the entire expenditure incurred on the development and maintenance of National Highways is debitible directly against Central Cash balances whether it is more than the allotment or less than that amount. In the latter case, balance, if any, left lapses at the close of a financial year

**Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant**

1327. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors of the Steel Authority of India decided recently to invest Rs. 115 crores in the next Financial Year for expansion of the annual capacity of the Bhilai Steel Plant to four million tonnes and for erection of the Refractories Plant;

(b) if so, what is the built in capacity at present of the Steel Plant and whether this capacity has been achieved; and

(c) if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Budget outlay of Rs. 117.99 crores was proposed for the year 1976-77 for expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant and for erection of Refractories Plant.

(b) and (c). The annual rated capacity of Bhilai Steel Plant in respect of saleable steel is 19,85,000 tonnes which is equivalent to 163,700 tonnes per month. During the current financial year, the rated capacity for a month has been fulfilled/exceeded during August, 1975, September, 1975, December, 1975 and January, 1976. The likely production of saleable steel during the current year is anticipated to be 18,20,000 tonnes which would work out to 93 per cent of the annual rated capacity.