

want of maintenance and overhauling for the last several years thereby adversely affecting our defence preparedness and combating capability;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the efforts being made to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Out of their total holdings some numbers of Tanks and armoured carriers do go out of order in a cycle owing to vintage, wear & tear and non-availability of spares, ex-import. Every effort is being made to maintain tanks and armoured carriers to the desired combat-preparedness level. There have been certain problems in regard to import of spares, which are being addressed, expeditiously.

Investment Plan by SAIL for Ninth Plan

4367. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has decided to scale down its investment plans during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which it will affect the SAIL in its production target; and

(d) the total amount to be spent by the SAIL during the Ninth Five Year Plan period for its projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has not yet decided to scale down its investment plans during the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, the individual schemes, envisaged for taking up during the 9th Plan Period, would be taken up depending upon the resource availability, market condition and other commercial considerations etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Flying Clubs

4368. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is the shortage of Pilots or Instructors in flying clubs located in various cities of the country;

(b) whether the condition of flying club of Delhi is also the same;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Helicopter Service

4369. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to connect the Leh-Srinagar, Leh-Jammu, Kargil-Zanskar, Leh-Zanskar by the regular helicopter services especially during the winter session; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has offered a Mi-172 helicopter on long-term basis to Government of Jammu & Kashmir to meet the requirements of the State. This helicopter can be utilised by the State Government on any suitable route.

Water Supply and Underground Drainage Facilities in Karnataka

4370. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any master plan for water supply and Underground Drainage facilities to the Urban areas in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the name of the towns proposed to be taken up thereunder;

(d) whether the pre-feasibility reports for 19 towns have been prepared for obtaining Overseas Economic Co-operation Funds; and

(e) if so, the latest status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. Since water supply & sanitation are State subjects, the schemes are required to be planned and executed by the State Governments and urban local bodies at their end.

(d) and (e) Pre-feasibility reports for 17 out of 19 towns had been received and cleared from technical angle by