

(a) The gauge conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi railway line in Orissa has abruptly stopped after its inauguration three years back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to restore the above work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The work is in progress between Kms. 0 to 75. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.

[Translation]

Linking of Tonk with Railway Network

270. SHRI DOWARKA PARSHAD BAIRWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for closing down Jalpur-Malpura-Toda Rai Singh Section metre gauge line;

(b) whether the Government propose to take some effective steps to bring Tonk district headquarter in Indian Railways map;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any techno-economic engineering survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the above town is likely to be linked with railway network ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The line was closed being an unremunerative branch line making losses.

(b) There is no proposal for rail linking Tonk at present.

(c) Surveys have been conducted in the past.

(d) Does not arise as the work is not sanctioned so far.

[English]

Setting up of Vijayanagar Steel Plant

271. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone for setting up of Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka has been laid down;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to allow private and public sectors to set up steel plant in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foundation stone was laid in 1971. Subsequently land acquired for the purpose of setting up the steel plant as a central Public Sector Undertaking was transferred to the Govt. of Karnataka in 1994. On a part of this land, M/s. Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd., jointly with Karnataka State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation (KSIIDC) are presently setting up an integrated steel plant to produce 1.57 million tpa of hot rolled steel flat products. M/s. Mukand Vijayanagar Steel Ltd. has also proposed to set up an integrated steel plant on the remaining area available at the location.

(c) Under the New Industrial Policy, in vogue since July 1991, iron and steel industry has been delicensed and no industrial licence is now necessary save for certain locational restrictions for setting up of a steel plant.

(d) Pursuant to the New Industrial Policy, Govt. of Karnataka have cleared several iron and steel projects. Of these one unit namely M/s. Bellary Steel and Alloys Ltd. is presently setting up a steel plant of a capacity of 0.5 million tpa in Navinahally, District Bellary.

Local Flavour of Decor and Design at Airport

272. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to adopt airports and give it a local flavour in terms of decor and design;

(b) if so, the action that has been taken to bring certain changes in the Bangalore airport by the Karnataka Government.

(c) whether traditional lamps, a nandi statue and other important indicators of the local culture and heritage are going to be introduced at Bangalore airport; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be executed there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) It is the general policy adopted by AAI to give a local flavour to terminal buildings in respect of exterior architecture and interior design.

(b) to (d) AAI has initiated action to provide art pieces and antiques indicating the local culture and heritage. This is an ongoing process.

Budget Provision for Umroi (Shillong) Airport

273. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :