

- (iii) To submit the independent views of its panel of experts on the above reports.
- (iv) To appoint project consultants for assistance in design & construction monitoring.
- (v) To off-load the non-performing contracts.

#### Setting up of Steel Plants

2061. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided not to install new steel plant in public sector;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have hailed the decision of the Orissa and Karnataka Governments to set up steel plants in the joint sector and that of the Madhya Pradesh Government in the private sector; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have sought assistance from Japan or non-resident Indians for modernisation of the steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). In view of the limited availability of resources, Government propose to utilise such resources for the expansion and modernisation of existing steel plants in the public sector.

(c) The new industrial policy has removed "iron and steel" from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted it from the requirements of compulsory licensing. The Central Government's approval is therefor not required for the es-

tablishment of new steel plants in the private or joint sector outside the restricted areas. The Orissa and Karnataka State Governments propose to set up new steel plants in the joint sector for which the Central Government will provide whatever assistance is possible.

(d) SAIL has commissioned SBI Capital Market Limited to explore the possibility of private participation both from within India and overseas in IISCO modernisation and advice SAIL accordingly.

[Translation]

#### Decision to Postpone Expansion Scheme of Vayudoot Services

2062. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision to postpone the expansion scheme of Vayudoot services or to reduce the same has been taken by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Sahara of Northern Bihar has also been included therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### P.C.Os. in Himachal Pradesh

2063. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of P.C.Os. in Himachal Pradesh installed so far and the new scheme of providing a P.C.O. in each Panchayat; and

(b) the number of Panchayats which are

likely to get P.C.Os. during the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 888 as on 31.1.1992.

(b) 93 out of which 75 have been provided upto 31.1.1992 and 18 more are expected during the remaining period of the current year (1991-92).

#### **D.A. to Extra Departmental Employees**

2064. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ex-servicemen employed as Extra-Departmental Employees are paid D A;

(b) if so, at what rates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) As per the existing Government orders on the subject, re-employed pensioners are eligible to draw either the relief on pension or Dearness

Allowance. The Ex-Servicemen engaged as Extra-Departmental Agents are paid D.A. at the rate of 60% of their basic allowance, provided they opt not to draw relief on pension.

#### **Demands of Extra Departmental Employees**

2065. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions were held by the Government with the representatives of the Bhartiya Extra Departmental Employees in April, 1991 on their demands,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Statement showing the demands of the Extra Departmental employees raised during the discussions and the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard is attached.