

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the recent judgment of the Supreme Court with respect to impunity/protection enjoyed by MPs under article 105(2) for anything said of any vote given in Parliament or any committee thereof;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring legislation or constitution amendment to provide that the impunity or protection shall not extend to cases involving corruption; and

(d) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Implications of the judgement are being examined.

Revival of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

2578.DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has submitted a report of its sickness to the Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) the details of the help/assistance the Government have agreed to provide to the Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) is not registered with it.

(c) Ministry of Steel & Mines has reported that the proposal of RINL to convert their loans into equity has recently been considered by Government and it has been decided to give the following financial reliefs to the company:

(i) conversion of Rs. 791 crores interest free loan to 7% non-cumulative redeemable preference capital, redeemable after 2000-01; and

(ii) conversion of Rs. 542.47 crore of loan advanced to RINL from 1993-94 to 1995-96 into 7% non-cumulative preference capital redeemable after 10 years.

Pending Core Sector Project

2579.SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise core sector projects pending with the Government;

(b) the Ministry-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to expedite the clearance of those projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to(d) Under the present Industrial Policy most of the industries have been de-licensed for which entrepreneurs are free to file Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM), and for which no prior approval is required. Only seven items require a licence under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 from the Central Government for setting up industrial units. The number of State-wise applications pending with the Central Government for grant of Industrial Licence as on 30.4.98 is given in the Statement enclosed. Applications for industrial licence are disposed of expeditiously in accordance with the rules & policy in force.

Statement

Statement showing IL applications awaiting clearance (state-wise) as on 30.4.98

S.No.	Name of the State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29
2.	A & N Islands	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	0
5.	Bihar	4
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	3
8.	Daman & Diu	4
9.	Delhi	0
10.	Goa	4
11.	Gujarat	14
12.	Haryana	20
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	3