

S.D.F. Loan

1987. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited asked the Government to write off Steel Development Fund loan irrespective of revival of its sick subsidiary Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the present debt equity;

(c) whether there is any plan to operational restructuring at Durgapur Steel Plant, IISCO, and Alloy Steel Plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount of money SAIL is going to invest in IISCO for operation restructuring?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) on financial restructuring, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has approached the Government for its financial restructuring which primarily envisages relief from Steel Development Fund (SDF) loan/ Government of India loan towards writing down of fixed assets to the extent of interest capitalized, writing-off of loans and advances given by SAIL to IISCO, etc. As on 31st March, 1998, a sum of Rs. 6069 crore was outstanding in the books of SAIL on account of SDF dues. The above proposal envisages that balance sheet of IISCO will get cleaned up facilitating its revival.

SAIL had a debt equity ratio of 2.34 : 1 as on 31st March, 1998.

(c) to (e) (i) **Planned operational restructuring at Durgapur Steel Plant** : DSP has planned to run the plant completely through BOF route and also to achieve full capacity utilisation of continuous casting facility.

(ii) **Planned operational restructuring at Alloy Steel Plant** : ASP has planned production in accordance with the market requirement and existing inventory.

(iii) As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for its modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

Land for Salem-Karur Rail Line

1988. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has handed-over the land required for the Salem-Karur new broad gauge line under the Southern Region;

(b) if not, whether the Southern Railway has requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to expedite handing-over of the land required for the said project; and

(c) if so, the response of Southern Railway in this regard?

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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Southern Railway are pursuing the matter with the State Government.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Patna and Gaya Airports

1989. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is not even a single International Airport in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government will take necessary action to make Patna and Gaya airports as International Airports; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Patna airport has already been developed as a model airport with all modern facilities for limited international operations. Gaya airport is an operational airport. Since no airline has shown any interest in operating flights to Gaya airport, Airports Authority of India has no plans to develop this airport for the present.

[English]

Direct Train between Delhi-Madurai

1990. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government received any representations for introduction of a direct train between New Delhi and Madurai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?