

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): (a) No decision has been taken to scrap the Haldia Plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation.

(b) and (c). The delay in commissioning the project has been due to a variety of circumstances including mismatched equipment related to a variety of foreign credit, power shortage and disturbed industrial relations. No major irregularities have, however, been brought to notice.

(d) While proposals for revamping the plant are being pursued, workers have not been retrenched.

Vikram Project

*118. SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the 'Vikram' project of the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether indigenous technology is available to meet the project needs; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to import any equipment for this project; and if so, the approximate value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SANJAY SINGH): (a) The objectives of the 'Vikram' project is to set-up a Packet Switched Public Data network to provide data communication.

(b) The estimated FOB cost of the imported equipment for 'Vikram' project in 1989 was Rs. 13.87 crores.

(c) and (d). It has been decided to set up Packet Switched Data Network in two phases. In phase I small capacity indigenously available switches is to be used. Phase II of the network will consist of expanding the above network with larger switches.

Foreign Tourists

*119. SHRI A. K. A. ABDUL SAMAD:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India from 1988 on wards year-wise and country-wise;

(b) the target fixed for receiving foreign tourists during 1990, country-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government are also aware that the Soviet Tourist Authorities have imposed restriction on their visitors as a result of which the number of tourists coming from USSR is decreasing this year;

(d) if so, the extent of loss incurred by the India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to attract more tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) The country-wise and year-wise tourist traffic to India in respect of the major tourist generating countries since 1988 are as given below:

S. No.	Country	1988	1989	1990 (Jan-Aug)
1.	U. K.	200,509	229,496	143,667
2.	U. S. A.	122,888	134,314	79,448