

steel capacity of about 2 to 3 million tonnes at each of these sites. These studies have been undertaken in connection with the long-term steel development programme and can be made use of only while considering proposals for the future Five Year Plans.

Relations with Hanoi

*51. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Hanoi have expressed a desire to have closer relations with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, whether any further step has been taken to strengthen the relationship between Hanoi and India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Government of India and the DRVN have remained in close touch with each other in order to strengthen their relations.

(b) There is a current trade agreement between the two governments. The Government of India has also extended training facilities to a number of DRVN students.

Setting up Special Alloy Steel Plant at Kanpur

*52. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to set up Special Alloy Steel Plant at Kanpur;

(b) if not, the reasons for this abnormal delay; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Government had sanctioned the Special Alloy Steel Project at Kanpur on 5th November, 1971. The cost of

this project has subsequently gone up considerably. Due to resources constraint and to make the project economically viable, the proposal has now been reframed, linking it up with a civil requirement. If the proposal is accepted, the revised cost and the size of the project will be worked out for obtaining Government sanction.

(c) No firm date can be indicated at this stage.

Eradication of Smallpox

*53. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state.

(a) the positive steps taken by Government to wipe out smallpox from the country;

(b) the time by which it is expected to be eradicated; and

(c) the amount earmarked and programme chalked out for the eradication of smallpox on the national level?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (c). A statement is laid down on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) It is hoped that India will be free of smallpox before the end of 1975.

Statement

In 1973 when increasing incidence of smallpox became evident, the Central and State Governments together with the World Health Organisation launched an intensive campaign in the entire country to contain the smallpox outbreaks. Under this campaign large number of health personnel and transport have been mobilised for search and containment operations. 89 Special Surveillance Teams headed by Senior Epidemiologists are presently working all over the country. 155 Special mobile Containment Teams consisting of a medical officer and para-medical and other