

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). The question of projection of demand for steel during the next 10 years, is at present under examination. Only after the additional capacities of steel required to be set up is assessed, location studies can be taken up.

Setting up of Steel Plant at Visakhapatnam

35. SHRI ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the setting up of a Public Sector Steel Plant at Visakhapatnam ;

(b) the details and estimates of the works to be completed during the years 1971 and 1972 ; and

(c) the time by which the project is expected to be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Government have approved the recommendations of the Site Selection Committee for the location of the Steel Plant at Balacheruvu, about 25 km from Visakhapatnam. On the joint recommendation of the Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Limited and M/s. M. M. Dastur and Co. (P) Limited, acting in their capacity as General Consultants to Government, an area of 8,400 acres for the plant proper and another 840 acres for the balancing reservoir have been demarcated and the State Government have been advised to notify these areas under Section 4(1) of the Land Acquisition Act. M/s. M. N. Dastur and Co. have been entrusted with the work of preparation of the Techno-economic Feasibility Report for a 2 million tonne integrated steel plant and their report is excepted by November, 1971. The Committee on Coal and the Committee on Raw Materials other than Coal and Iron Ore have also completed their Reports. The Report of the Committee on Iron Ore is expected shortly. The Survey of India have been requested to undertake the topographical survey of the project area. A proposal for the supply of water to the

Visakhapatnam Project by tapping the Godavari River (at a distance of about 20⁰ km. from plant site) prepared by the State Government, is under examination. The Railways have also been requested to take up survey work for provision of marshalling and exchange yards, railway sidings etc.

(b) The expenditure during the years 1971 and 1972 will be mainly on account of preparation of the Techno-economic Feasibility Report and the Detailed Project Report, site survey work, land acquisition costs, preliminary site and enabling work and for such initial work as may be required for the development of township, and water and power supply systems etc.

(c) It is too early to indicate the date by which the project will be completed. After the receipt of the Feasibility Report a tentative time schedule will be drawn up for completion of the Project.

Claims Preferred against Railways

36. DR. KARNI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number and amount of claims preferred against the Railways during the last three years for damages in respect of theft or damage to goods in transit ;

(b) the total number of cases decided against the Railways ; and

(c) the total amount of damages decreed against the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAJIYA) : (a) Statistics of claims for compensation maintained by the Zonal Railways do not indicate separately as to how many claims have been preferred on account of thefts or damage to goods in transit. Also in several claims no amount is mentioned. Therefore, the total amount in respect of the total number of claims is also not ascertainable. The total number of claims preferred against the Railways due to all causes is as follows :

Year	Total No. of new claims received
	Rs.
1967-68	7,03,424
1968-69	7,20,036
1969-70	7,00,082