

Financial assistance for mechanisation of Mines

*431. SHRI K. OBUL REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that no financial assistance from Banks and other financial institutions is being provided for the mechanisation or development of mines and ;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to provide this financial assistance to this labour intensive industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) (a) and (b). It is not a fact that Banks and other financial institutions are not providing financial assistance for mechanisation or development of mines.

Criteria for out-of-turn Telephone connections

*433. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what criteria have Government formulated for giving out of turn telephone connections;

(b) whether there is a list of out of turn telephone connections pending at present, so far as Delhi is concerned; and

(c) the number of out-of-turn telephone connections sanctioned by Government during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) : (a) No criteria have been formulated for giving out-of-turn telephone connections. Each case is considered on its merits and subject to technical feasibility.

(b) Twenty-four telephone connections sanctioned on out-of-turn basis are pending in Delhi Telephones.

(c) The information is not readily available.

Construction of Hostel-cum-cultural centre for overseas Indians

*436. SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN ; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme has been proposed by the Ministry to construct a Hostel-cum-Cultural Centre for overseas Indians in New Delhi;

(b) is the Government aware that overseas Indians are also interested in donating for the same and this interest has been communicated by them; and

(c) by what time is the proposal going to be finalised

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Minister for External Affairs had stated in an address to the Second Conference of the Friends of India Society International on June 30, 1977, that the idea of an international Hostel-cum-Cultural Centre in Delhi for the benefit of Indians overseas was being seriously considered.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government has received tentative suggestions and offers on the subject.

(c) This matter is receiving serious consideration by Government. It is a major proposal involving substantial financial outlays and careful planning. It is difficult to be precise when the proposal may be finalised, but it is being pursued.

Distribution of compensation received from Uganda

*437. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the amount received as compensation from Uganda has been distributed among the claimants ; and

(b) if so, details of claims received and claims settled?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE) : (a) Not yet, Sir.