

(c) The yearly budget of the Authority for the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85

is as follows :—

Expenditure		(Rs. in lakhs)
		Receipts
1982-83	1474.64	1555.46
1983-84	1720.84	1581.70
1984-85	1395.06	1572.17

### Increase in Prices of Steel

303. SHRI MOOL CNAND DAGA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the prices of steel having been increased frequently over the past two and a half years period, the public sector steel plants have consistently suffered increasing losses ;

(b) if so, since when this condition is continuing and the reasons therefor ;

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the production for earning profits and the results thereof ;

(d) whether Government have undertaken any study of the working to Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd. to compare the same with public Sector Steel Plants which are undergoing losses and less production consistently ; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) : The price increases allowed to the public sector steel plants during the the past few years did not fully compensate the producers for the escalations in the costs of inputs.

SAIL started incurring losses from 1982-83, while IISCO has been incurring losses since a number of years. Other reasons for losses have been the constraints of coking coal, power supply, obsolete technology and ageing of plants requiring higher maintenance.

(c) Efforts are being made to ensure adequate inputs and of the right quality, better maintenance, increase in

capacity utilisation and attainment of improved technological norms. Efforts are also being made to contain expenditure, reduce inventories and to adopt cost reduction measures.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### Loans Taken by Industrialists from Nationalised Banks

304. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of industrialists had taken loans from the Central Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda on large scale and have not repaid the same for a long period ;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that these banks have indiscriminately granted loans to the various industrialists and great manipulation was done in sanctioning these loans ;

(c) if so, the total number of industrialists involved and the action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard ; and

(d) the time by which the loan sanctioned by these banks will be recovered from them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) There are cases in all banks including the banks mentioned in part (a) of the question, where loans advanced to various units have become overdue for a variety of reasons. There are also cases of irregular/fraudulent