

('000 tonnes)

| Plant | Target 1984-85 | April-December 1984 | | | Actuals during April-Dec. 1983 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Target | Actual | %Fulfillment | |
| SAIL plants including IISCO | 5410 | 3743 | 3602 | 96.2% | 3241 |

The production in SAIL plants including IISCO during April-December 1984 is 11% higher than that during April-December 1983.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The achievement of target of saleable steel will help SAIL in improving its financial performance.

(d) The cost of production of saleable steel has been going up over the years as will be seen from the following table :

| Year | Cost of production of saleable steel in four integrated steel plants of SAIL (Rs./T) | Increase in cost of production of saleable steel over previous year (Rs./T) |
|---------|--|---|
| 1980-81 | 2553 | ... |
| 1981-82 | 2859 | ... |
| 1982-83 | 3432 | ... |
| 1983-84 | 3970 | ... |

The main reasons for increase in the cost of production is the increase in the cost of various inputs like coal, power, petro-fuels, labour cost over the period.

[Translation]

Decline in Tax Collection

21. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a 10 per cent decline in tax collection this year ;

(b) if so, the amount of taxes which should have been collected and the amount by which the collections fell short this year ; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

Bringing the Weaker Sections above Poverty Line

22. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to bring the weaker sections of the society above poverty line during the last five years ;

(b) the results achieved so far Statewise ; and

(c) further steps taken in this regard and the target fixed for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : (a) A number of programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) have been under implementation to bring the weaker sections of society above poverty line. These programmes are aimed at increasing the income of the weaker sections by creation of assets leading to a steady flow of income or of employment.

(b) In the first four years of the Sixth Plan (1980—84), 12.58 million families have been assisted through the IRDP and 1,428 million mandays of employment have been generated through the NREP and the RLEGP.

(c) As envisaged in the Approach to the Seventh Five Year Plan, the package of poverty alleviation programmes will continue at an accelerated pace in the Seventh Plan period.

Development of Iron Ore Mines

23. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken for the development of iron ore mines in the country ;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in last three years for the development of iron ore mines in Orissa ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c)'. The production capacity in Orissa is very large compared to the present production. Enhanced production of iron ore on account of increased domestic steel production or higher exports of iron ore is likely to be met from the existing capacities itself.

Setting up of Nickel Project in Sukinda, Orissa

24. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a Nickel Project near Sukinda in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the above proposal ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). Sanction was issued earlier based on preliminary feasibility report envisaging the use of the indigenous technology for setting up of Sukinda Nickel Project. However, the project could not progress as the indigenous technology chosen failed when tried on pilot plant scale. The indigenous technology having failed, foreign consultancy had to be chosen judiciously. An expert deputed by Candian International Development Agency carried out a preliminary evaluation of the available data and according to his report, it would be necessary to undertake additional exploration, laboratory and pilot plant test work, before feasibility report can be prepared. A scheme for additional exploration has been prepared. Offers were invited from foreign consultants for review of exploration data and laboratory and pilot plant test work. Based on the offers received selection of a suitable consultant is under