

[Translation]

**India's Foreign Indebtedness**

\*9. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's foreign indebtedness stands at 17,800 crores of Rupees at present;

(b) if not, the exact amount thereof and the annual amount of interest paid by Government of India thereon; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase rather than decrease in the poverty of the population of the country in spite of such a staggering indebtedness to foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir. External loans have been undertaken for investment and productive purposes and have contributed to our development efforts according to Plan priorities.

**Statement**

(i) Outstanding External Debt Liability of India :

(Rs. Crores)

Category	Amount (as on 31.10.84)
(a) Government loans	22,490
(b) Non-Government loans	778
<b>Total (a) and (b) : 23,268</b>	

Approvals of External commercial borrowings and suppliers credit from 1980-81 to 1984-85 (upto Dec. 1984) amounting to Rs. 7,056 crores have also

been given. However, the external debt on this account will be spread over a number of years in the future as and when the loans are actually drawn/utilised.

In addition, India has outstanding repurchase obligations of Rs. 4,626 crores on drawings made under the facilities of the I.M.F.

(ii) The budgetted amount of interest payment during 1984-85 are of the order of Rs. 418.08 crores in respect of Government loans. In addition the estimated charges on I.M.F. loans (CFF & EFF) would be Rs. 433.41 crores.

[English]

**Losses in Public Sector Steel Plants**

\*10. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector steel plants have been incurring huge losses if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to wipe out the losses incurred;

(c) the steps envisaged to replace the obsolete technology and ageing equipment at the two major plants in Bhilai and Rourkela and totally rebuilding the ones at Durgapur and Burnpur; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to revamp the administrative structure of these plants so as to fix responsibility for their failure to make profit, especially when the demand for steel is very high ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The working results of SAIL and IISCO for the last four years

are given below :

		(Rs. in crores)
	SAIL	IISCO
1980 - 81	(+ ) 1.01	(- ) 28.79
1981 - 82	(+ ) 39.17	(- ) 37.11
1982 - 83	(- ) 105.76	(- ) 71.05
1983 - 84	(- ) 214.53	(- ) 24.06
	(+ ) Profit	(- ) Loss

(b) Though there have been price increases in the past, these have not fully compensated SAIL for increases in the cost of production. SAIL has introduced a production-cum-Profit Improvement Management System to achieve higher production and improved profitability. The strategy includes diversification of its product-mix to better match the demand, accelerate sales by adoption of an aggressive marketing strategy and reduction of inventories of raw materials, stores and spares. Special measures to achieve cost reduction by improving technological processes, better maintenance to maximise the availability of equipment by timely repairs, minimisation of purchases of stores and spares and restriction of expenditure in all possible ways have been also adopted.

(c) and (d). Schemes for modernisation and technological upgradation of Durgapur, Rourkela and IISCO are under consideration of the Government. Schemes are also under formulation for de-bottlenecking schemes of Bhilai and Bokaro steel plants so as to enable these plants to achieve their rated capacities.

#### Strengthening of Territorial Army

\*11. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee to strengthen the Territorial Army under the Chairmanship of General Sparrow ; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of that Committee ; and

(c) those which have been accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 21/85].

#### Development of Coal Reserves in Orissa

\*12. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have requested his Ministry for the development of coal resources in that State ;

(b) if so, the steps taken therefor ;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken therefor ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). No such request has been received from State Government of Orissa. However, based on regional exploration done by the Geological Survey of India and the detailed exploration by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute of Coal India Limited, the development of coal resources of an area is taken up irrespective of any request by the State