

**Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant**

1200. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recognised trade union in Durgapur Steel Plant has identified and brought out a detailed report on corrupt practices and inflated expenditure during modernisation work;

(b) whether the excessively inflated expenses have made Durgapur unviable even after production at rated capacity;

(c) if so, whether the Government are initiating an enquiry into the corruption charges levelled against the then management; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has reported that the recognised trade union of Durgapur Steel Plant (Hindustan Steel Employees Union, affiliated to CITU) has brought out a brief appraisal of Durgapur Steel Plant and its performance vis-a-vis modernisation.

(b) In DSP modernisation project, there has been a cost over run of Rs. 2407 crore (provisional) over the estimated cost of Rs. 2668 crore approved in 1989, mainly due to monetary reasons i.e. foreign exchange variation, escalation, taxes & duties and interest during construction etc. The viability of the plant has been effected by the high incidence of interest and depreciation due to the investment on the modernisation project and also due to low net sales realisation in the prevailing sluggish market.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of above.

**Utilisation of funds earmarked for Tribal Welfare**

1201. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds earmarked for tribal welfare rarely reach them and this has encouraged Christian missionaries to indulge in wholesale conversion;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this state of affairs of alleged siphoning off the funds meant for tribal welfare; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken so that money earmarked for welfare of vulnerable sections of society are properly utilised?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) No Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry has been emphasizing States/UTs to strengthen the monitoring mechanism so as to ensure that funds earmarked for tribal development are properly utilized.

**Tribals demanding withdrawal of forestry project in Madhya Pradesh**

1202. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals are demanding withdrawal of Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project funded by the World Bank;

(b) if so, the cause of their agitation; and

(c) the action envisaged towards ensuring the survival of both forests and forest communities of tribals in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) to (c) Mass Tribal Organisations (MTO) of Madhya Pradesh has asked the World Bank to discontinue Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project (a World Bank assisted project) and not to consider Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project Phase-II for funding, due to the project being harmful to the interest of the tribals. The contention of the MTO has not been found to be correct by the State Government.

**Budgetary provision for Tribal Welfare**

1203. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost Rs. 700 crores were provided in the budget for the tribal welfare during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the details of budget allocation for various tribal projects programmes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) The budget allocations for tribal Welfare during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are Rs. 551.00 crores and Rs. 630.00 crores respectively.