

(b) if so, the present scenario;

(c) in what manner the Government propose to improve the infrastructural facilities; and

(d) the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the first seven months of current financial year there has been declaration in growth rate of six infrastructure industries comprising power, saleable steel, crude petroleum, refinery products & cement from 10.4% in 1995-96 (April-Oct) to 3%.

(c) and (d) Development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and others is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The Government is already considering extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through deregulation of production and distribution. Foreign investment in these sectors is also being encouraged to supplement domestic resources. Union Budget 1996-97 has proposed establishment of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5000 crores to act as a direct lender, as a refinancing institution and as a provider of financial guarantees. To step up investment in infrastructure, a levy of 2% as special custom duty on all imports except those that carry a nil rate of duty or are imported at nil rate of custom duty for export production has also been proposed. Tax concessions have also been extended to infrastructure sector.

Increase in the number of profit making PSUs

1790. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the financial year 1994-95, the number of

profit making public sector undertakings has increased in comparison to previous financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken by Government to encourage these public undertakings to keep it up; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the performance of the loss making undertakings and to motivate them to reduce their losses?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the year 1994-95 130 PSUs earned profit of Rs. 121 Crores as against a profit of Rs. 97 Crores earned by 121 PSUs during 1993-94. The steps being taken by Government to improve the performance of PSUs are enterprise specific. However, some common steps are, signing of MOU, periodic performance review meetings, administrative Ministries/Departments, delegation of powers, professionalisation of Board of Directors, reduction of surplus of manpower through VR, Diversification of product-mix, technological upgradation, reference of sick PSUs to BIFR for formulation of revival/rehabilitation scheme, export promotion etc.

Enhanced compensation for the land acquired by BSL

1791. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of construction of Bokaro Steel Plant in Bihar, the land of 62 villages was acquired under land acquisition law 1956;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the court has ordered B.S.L. to pay compensation of land to displaced persons at enhanced rate;