

other problems during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are the measures taken by Government to minimise the loss in Steel Authority of India Limited and increase production of steel in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) During the period April-October, 1986 the five integrated steel plants of SAIL lost a production of 9, 56, 000 tonnes as compared to their targets. SAIL has computed that out of this lost production, the loss on account of power restrictions by public utilities was 4, 76, 000 tonnes.

(b) SAIL have taken the following measures to minimise loss and to increase production of steel:

—optimisation and augmentation of captive power generation.

—ensuring adequate availability of inputs of the right quality and in the required quantity particularly of coking coal, including import of low ash coking coal.

—moulding a better work culture which focusses primarily on better team work and higher levels of discipline.

—systematic maintenance of equipment.

—strict adherence to technological norms.

—modernisation and technological upgradation.

—R&D efforts for improving productivity and efficiency.

Strategy for Sugar production

490. SHRI SURAT PRASAD: SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are preparing a long-term strategy for increasing sugar production in the country;

(b) if so, what are the salient features; and

(c) whether the sugarcane growers are likely to be given remunerative price under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An important objective of the long-term sugar policy is to increase sugar production within the country. In achieving this objective, the policy aims to harmonise the interests of consumers, sugarcane growers and the sugar industry. The policy is under evolution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Supply of essential commodities to MP

491. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are not supplying essential commodities like rice, kerosene oil and imported edible oil in adequate quantities to Madhya Pradesh and that the supply of these items falls short of the projected demand and requirements of the state; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being contemplated to augment the supply and make up the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Alloca-