

Loan agreement with Japan

2284. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER;

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loan agreement with Japan has recently been signed; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the projects for which the said loan will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJAR): (a) Yes, Sir, On the 25th November 1985 five loan agreements were signed at New Delhi by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India with Overseas Economic Corporation Fund of Japan for loan assistance of a total amount of Yen 39.231 billion equivalent to Indian rupees 197.4 crores approximately.

(b) The names of the projects for which the said loan will be utilised are follows: —

(1) H.B.J. Gas Pipeline Project: Yen 15.8 billion or Rs. 80 crores approximately.

(2) Aonla Fertilizer Plant Project: Yen 9.5 billion or Rs. 47.6 crores approximately.

(3) Sardar Sarovar Hydro-Electric Project; Yen 2.85 billion Or Rs. 14.3 billion approximately.

(4) Ujjani Hydro-Electric Project: Yen 1.5 billion or Rs. 7.5 crores approximately.

(5) Telecommunications Project (VIE) : Yen 9.581 billion or Rs. 48 crores approximately.

Minimum wages for Landless labourers.

2285. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the minimum wages of the landless labourers engaged on agriculture were fixed long ago by the various State Governments;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is need for upward revision of the minimum wages fixed, by the State Governments;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to advise the State Governments to revise upward the minimum wages of the agricultural labourers in their States;

(d) whether Government propose to take any other steps in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) A statement indicating the latest position about the minimum wages fixed by the Central Government and the various State Governments/Union Territories Administrations in the employment of agriculture is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix CXXXVI, Annexure No. 45.] As would be seen from the statement, it would not be correct to say that the minimum wages were fixed long ago by the various State Governments. •

(b) to (e) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 requires the "appropriate Government" to review at such intervals as it may think fit. such intervals not exceeding five years, the minimum rates of wages and revise them necessary. However, the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations have been requested to follow the recommendation of the 31st Sea-

sion of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980 that the minimum wage, should be reviewed and revised, if necessary once at least in two years or on a rise of 50 points in the Consumer Price Index Number, whichever is earlier.

Change in Labour Policy

2286. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Premier Employers' Organisation from both public and private sector have sought a radical change in the existing labour policy with due emphasis on discipline, effective labour participation in industry and wage linked to productivity and to improve overall performance;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain suggestions have also been made by the all India organisation of Employees Federation of India;

(c) if so, to what extent the Government have accepted the above recommendations; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Council of Indian Employers have forwarded a copy of the Joint Memorandum on Labour Policy as submitted to the Prime Minister. The constituents of the Council of Indian Employers are:—

1. All India Organisation of Employers (AIOE)
2. Employers' Federation of India (EFI) and
3. Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)

(c) and (d) The memorandum which has been received recently is under examination.

Losses suffered by the Steel Authority of India Limited

2287. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the losses suffered by the Steel Authority of India Limited during the last three financial years, year-wise; and

(b) to which of the following causes are these losses attributable:—

(1) unremunerative sale prices of Steel products.

(2) under production;

(3) obsolescence of plant and process; and.

(4) ineffective working of management and workers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The working result of Steel Authority of India Limited during the last three years are given below:—

	(Rs. in crores)
	Profit (+) / Loss (-)
1982-83	(-) 105.76
1983-84	(-) 214.53
1984-85	(+) 4.24

(b) The causes for losses are attributable to a number of factors including increase in costs of production which were not covered by price increases, low capacity utilisation because of constraints of coking coal of the right quality, deterioration in other raw materials, inadequate power supply from public utilities, obsolete technology and ageing of the equipment. Steps are being taken to remove these various constraints.

There is always room for better performance by management and workers to jointly increase production and productivity. Towards this end, steps