

CCL, WCL and ECL where non-coking coal stocks of inferior quality have built up to very high levels due to inadequate offtake mainly due to problems of transportation, further accretion to the stocks is not desirable as huge coal stocks are liable to spontaneous combustion. Production in such collieries is, therefore, being regulated. Simultaneously the matter regarding increase in despatches is being constantly pursued with the Railways. Further the policy regarding road sales has also been liberalised to maximize despatches by the consumers. As such this temporary regulation of production is not likely to have any impact on the Seventh Plan production relating to coal output and demand.

Losses incurred by public sector Steel Plants

*29. DR. C. SILVERA:

SHRIMATI USHA
MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the three public sector steel units at Durgapur,

Bhadrawati and Salem have shown heavy losses during the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the details of the losses suffered by these public sector undertakings during the last three years and whether the losses include interest and depreciation charges;

(c) whether Government propose to institute any inquiry into the affairs of these units in order to fix the responsibility and punish the officials responsible therefor;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to achieve better efficiency in these units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) and (b) The following table indicates the profit and loss position of the three units of SAIL at Durgapur and Salem and of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (Bhadrawati):—

Year	(Rupees in crores)			
	Durgapur Steel Plant	Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur	Salem Steel Plant, Salem	Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Ltd., Bhadravati
1981-82	(+) 0.70	(-) 6.64	(-) 0.13	(-) 0.94
1982-83	(-) 44.23	(-) 15.31	(-) 14.21	(-) 22.59
1983-84	(-) 63.73	(-) 33.75	(-) 18.08	(-) 25.41

The position for 1984-85 will be known after the accounts are finalised.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The functioning of these units are constantly under review. The main reasons for the losses of the Durgapur Steel Plant have been that the

price increases during the past three years did not fully compensate them for the escalations in the cost of inputs. Besides this, deterioration in quality of raw material, poor condition of coke oven batteries, inadequate availability of power,

shortage of good quality coal and technological obsolescence of plant and equipment have also attributed to such losses.

The main reasons for the losses of the ASP, Salem Steel Plant and VISL have been low production due to power constraints and a depressed market.

(e) To improve performance of these plants, efforts are being made to ensure adequate inputs and of the right quality, upgrade technological regimes, improve yields of by-products, and attain better recovery of waste and secondary arisings, reduce working capital, reduce inventories, optimum captive power generation, better maintenance and increase production of demand oriented products by diversifying product mix.

Loans at concessional Rate of interest to the Fishing Industry

*30. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines for extending loans at concessional rate of interest to industries which are in financial difficulties;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of these guidelines;

(c) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks are not extending this benefit to the fishing industry which is considered a priority sector; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for this discriminatory attitude of the banks towards this sector and what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) The nationalised banks implement rehabilitation programme for the revival of sick industrial units assisted by them by way of providing facilities like additional working capital/term loan assistance, concessions in the rate of interest and margin requirements, re-scheduling of the repayment period and funding of overdue interest. The nationalised banks extend such

facilities on merits of each case to potentially viable units, including those in fisheries sector. The banks do not have any discriminatory attitude towards fishing industry.

Appointment of Chairman and Managing Directors in Nationalised Banks

*31. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRI KISHORE MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of nationalised banks in which the Chairman and Managing Directors are yet to be appointed; and

(b) what are the criteria for appointment as Directors of nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The posts of Chairman, State Bank of India and Chairman and Managing Directors of Dena Bank and Andhra Bank are currently vacant.

(b) Appointment of non-official Directors on the Boards of nationalised banks are made in accordance with the criteria for selection and procedure laid down under Clause 3 of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1970 and 1980.

Abolition of Export Duty on Tobacco

*32. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce has recommended the abolition of export duty on tobacco; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action his Ministry has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Export duties are subject to periodical