

have opposed the hike in steel prices twice in a financial year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the hike in prices of Steel has adversely affected these industries; and

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider their decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Some of the users protested against the price increase effected by the Joint Plant Committee of the main producers with effect from the midnight of February 20/21, 1985. It is expected that the impact of this price increase will only be about 0.4 per cent on the wholesale price index. The interests of the steel consumers and producers were kept in view by the Joint Plant Committee before taking this decision. There is no proposal to reconsider this decision.

Introduction of production-cum-profit improvement management system

320. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently introduced a production-cum-profit improvement management system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) A production-cum-profit improvement management system has been introduced in the Department of Steel.

(b) the production-cum-profit improvement management system is aimed at:

(i) determining production and capacity utilisation plans and targets;

(ii) determining profit improvement plans and targets; and

(iii) laying accent on improving management system for conducting the exercise involving planning, programming implementation, monitoring and review of the entire corporate business.

As a part of this exercise, production-cum-profit improvement targets for 1984-85 were determined on the basis of discussions with the Chief Executives of Public Enterprises in the Department of Steel. A Monitoring Group with the Secretary, Department of Steel as Chairman and the senior officers of the Department as its Members, has been constituted to review the performance of Public Sector Enterprises against these targets and to take corrective action wherever necessary. In so far as Steel Authority of India (SAIL) is concerned, a detailed review is conducted by the Department of Steel with the Chairman, SAIL, Managing Directors/Executive Directors of different Steel Plants and the Functional Directors of SAIL every month.

Profits earned by State Trading Corporation

321. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of profits earned by the State Trading Corporation during the year 1984-85; and

(b) what is the estimated profit likely to be earned during the year 1985-86?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Since financial year 1984-85 has not yet come to close, it is not possible to indicate profits for 1984-85. However, according to mid