

Government are conscious of the need to improve safety standards of vehicles irrespective of their origin. The government will consider this matter further in all its aspects.

Bokajan Cement Factory in Assam

3168. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unsatisfactory management of the Bokajan Cement Factory in Assam;

(b) whether its production along with its quality have gone down during the last five years; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the profit/loss of the factory during the years 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) The Bokajan Unit of Cement Corporation of India is being managed satisfactorily.

(b) The capacity utilisation of the Unit during the last five years ranged from 61 per cent to 96 per cent. The quality of cement produced in this factory satisfies the relevant 'ISI' specifications and is being maintained consistently.

(c) The profit earned by the Unit during 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 is Rs. 2.03 lakhs, Rs. 25.07 lakhs and Rs. 158.64 lakhs respectively.

Production of Refractory Bricks

3169. SHRI CHANDAN K. BAGCHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of refractory bricks during the year 1982 in the country;

(b) whether our country is self-sufficient in refractory bricks;

(c) whether Government propose to import such bricks from other countries to meet our demands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) 8.86 lakh tonnes of refractories were produced during the year 1982 by the units registered with the Directorate General of Technical Development.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) To meet urgent requirement of silica refractories for Seven metre tall coke oven batteries, high alumina refractories for fertilizer plants and special refractories for petro chemical industries, import is allowed on merits after taking into consideration the stringent requirements of these industries and the domestic availability.

Financial Prospects of SAIL

3170. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 594 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1983 and state what are the financial prospects of SAIL in the current year on the basis of actuals so far in each of the steel plants under the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): In 1983-84, production during the first quarter in SAIL plants suffered on account of severe restrictions on power supply and poor quality and inadequate availability of coking coal. The level of stocks was high due to accumulation in 1982-83 but there has been some decline in recent months. These factors have had an adverse effect on SAIL's profitability and on present indication, SAIL is likely to incur losses. Detailed analyses are in progress to identify all the measures that must be taken to improve the performance.

Pelletisation Plant based on Iron Ore Lines

3171. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up