

[11 August, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

the contract for export of iron ore and supply the raw material to the units of the State;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) (a) to (c): The Chhattisgarh Government had requested that NMDC may not renew the existing iron ore export agreements or enter into any new export agreements till the raw material requirement of the State of Chhattisgarh's industry is fully met on sustainable long term basis. The raw material requirements of the State of Chhattisgarh's industry have been met by NMDC by allocating a quantity of 2 million tonnes of iron ore from Bailadila Sector to the Chhattisgarh based plants during 2006-07 as requested by the Chhattisgarh Government.

Payment for VRS in HSCL

† 1948. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousand of employees of HSCL, Government enterprise, have opted for voluntary retirement since 2000;

(b) whether it is also a fact that crores of rupees pertaining to pay revision arrears, Dearness Allowance, family pension with regard to these employees are yet to be paid;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the payment of arrears to these employees would be ensured by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Since the year 2000, 11320 employees of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) have opted for voluntary retirement.

(b) to (d) Though the company implemented 5th Pay revision from 1.1.1996, due to adverse financial condition the revision was given effect from 1.1.1998.

The Government of India had approved a Financial Assistance cum

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

12.00 NOON

Restructuring Package for the company in July, 1999. In terms of the package certain austerity measures were also adopted. One of such austerity measure was to freeze Dearness Allowance till such time the company achieves cash profit. The Dearness Allowance has been frozen at 22%.

The Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 is being implemented by the company. Applications received from eligible employees are being processed by the company and forwarded to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Kolkata, for settlement of pension claims.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**Report (2005-06) and Accounts (2004-05) of the ICAR New Delhi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

- (i) Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) (a) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 and Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 4735/06]

MoU (2006-2007) between the Government of India and the NSIC

The Minister of Small Scale Industries and the Minister of Agra and Rural Industries. (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Small Scale Industries) and