

Fazal Committee Reports

766. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the undertakings in respect of which the "Unit by Unit" appraisal has been completed by the Fazal Committee;

(b) the dates on which the relevant reports were submitted to Government by the Committee; and

(c) the action being taken on the recommendations made in the reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) to (c) The Committee, after examining the working of enterprises in coal India Limited and its five subsidiaries viz. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Central Coalfields Ltd., Eastern Coalfields Ltd., Western Coalfields Ltd. and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited, submitted its report to the Government on 24th October, 1980. Similarly, the report on enterprises/units in fertilizer sector, viz. Fertilizer Corporation of India (Sindri, Gorakhpur, Ramagundam and Talcher), Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (Namrup and Durgapur) National Fertilizers Ltd. (Nangal, Nangal Expansion, Bhatinda and Panipat) and Fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (Udyogmandal, Cochin I and Cochin II) was submitted to the Government by the Committee on 23rd December, 1980. These reports are under consideration of the Government.

20-point Programme

767. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report captioned "20-point Plan to eat into profits" published in the Financial Express (Bombay) dated December 12, 1980; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the estimated impact of the 20-point Programme on the profitability of the Nationalised Banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) The press report referred in the question has been seen.

Profitability of a bank is appraised on the basis of its overall credit portfolio operations and not on the basis of individual segments of advances such as those to the priority sector including the beneficiaries of the 20-point Programme. Lending to these sectors subserve the social obligations of the public sector banks in addition to keeping in view the criteria of profitability.

Due regard, however, is given to profitability. Some of the measures stipulated to safeguard the profitability of the banks are as follows:—

(1) RBI have exempted only advances to the weaker sections among the priority sectors from the application of the minimum lending rates.

(2) Whereas advances to priority sectors and the beneficiaries under the 20-point Programme will be at concessional rates of interest and liberal terms, banks have the discretion to charge an appropriate rate of interest on other advances and to larger borrowers.

(3) RBI has commended to the banks to route credit to individual beneficiaries in the weaker sections through State sponsored corporations/agencies so as to reduce operational costs.

(4) Refinance is available to the banks at concessional rates on loans for which they have to charge concessional rates of interest.

(5) The banks' interests are to some extent protected in that guarantee cover is available for advances to the priority sectors to a large extent.

Copper production

768. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present annual output of copper in the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to boost its production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The present annual output of copper in the country is of the order of 19,000—20,000 metric tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Development of Aluminium Industry

769. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Research and Development Centre for the development of aluminium industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited had entrusted a study for setting up of an Aluminium Research and Development Centre to the Soviets, in response to which the Soviet Organisations had submitted a report in August, 1980 giving recommendations for setting up of such an Institute. The Government have formulated a proposal to get a feasibility report for setting up of a Research, Development and Design Institute for

Aluminium in India prepared through assistance of UNDP which would inter alia take into account the recommendations in the Soviet report.

Opening of fair price shops in Delhi

770. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open more fair price shops in Delhi in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Delhi Administration it is proposed to open one fair price shop for every 4000 cereal units in the Union Territory of Delhi. Altogether 920 more shops would be opened according to this criteria. Vacancies have been notified as per the Delhi Specified Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Order, 1981 and applications received are under process.

Setting up of Pelletisation Plants

771. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH:

SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:
SHRI ARVIND GANESH
KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether Government have since decided to set up two iron ore pelletisation plants, one at Mangalore and the other at Bailadilla, without first locating the foreign buyers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the financial implications involved in setting up the plants; and

(c) what steps Government propose to make these plants economically viable?