

(b) the total expenditure incurred by this Commission so far under various heads; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this Commission has not completed half of its work so far and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) The Sugar Industry Enquiry Commission was set up on the 28th September 1970, and was asked to submit its report by the 31st August 1971. However, the Chairman of the Commission has asked for extension of time by one year.

(b) The details of expenditure incurred by the Commission upto 3rd June 1971 under various heads is as under :—

Head	(In thousand rupees)
(1) Establishment charges	Rs. 99.5
(2) Interim relief	Rs. 3.6
(3) Travelling Expenses	Rs. 10.3
(4) Other charges	Rs. 100.1
TOTAL	Rs. 213.5

(c) Although the appointment of the Commission was notified on the 28th September 1970, arrangements for office accommodation and appointment of suitable staff for it have taken time and this has contributed to some extent to delay in its work. The terms of reference of the Commission are also very wide and the time required for examination of all aspects of the task entrusted to it is likely to be more than originally estimated.

DEPUTATIONISTS IN F.C.I.

965. SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) the number of deputationists of the Food Department who have been reverted by the Food Corporation of India upto date;

(b) whether any option was given to these persons for absorption in the Corporation, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Secretariat work of the Food Department has been considerably reduced due to the transfer of its work to the Food Corporation of India;

(d) if so, what action has been taken by the Government to give option to the Food Department staff to work in the Food Corporation; and

(e) how many posts in each grade have been reduced in the Food Department proper during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) :

(a) 21.

(b) No, Sir. They were not considered suitable for absorption by the Food Corporation of India.

(c) The Secretariat work of the Food Department has been reduced to some extent.

(d) In accordance with the general policy of Government, the Food Corporation has given option for absorption to some deputationists of the Food Department

(e) Class I	35
Class II (Gazetted)	27
Class II (non-Gazetted)	} 179
and	
Class III	} 30
Class IV	

MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR WORKERS

966. SHRI SURHID MULLICK CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some establishments, the existing medical benefits provided to the workers by the management, under medical benefit schemes offer greater benefits than

those provided by the schemes under the Employees State Insurance Act;

(b) whether the workers and the management of some of the establishments have applied for exemption from the operation of the Employees State Insurance Act on the ground that the existing medical benefits are more beneficial for the workers; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take steps for granting the applications expeditiously?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : The E.S.I.C. authorities have reported as follows :—

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) While examining the cases for exemption, in addition to medical benefit, other cash benefits like sickness benefit, employment injury and maternity benefits as available under the employees' State Insurance Act and those provided by the Management are to be considered. If found eligible, the exemption is granted by the appropriate Government. Applications for exemption are considered expeditiously.

RATED CAPACITY AND PRODUCTION IN THE HINDUSTAN STEEL LIMITED

967. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that with a production of about 60 per cent of the rated capacity, the Hindustan Steel, during 1970-71 is likely to incur a loss higher than that of 1969-70;

(b) if so, to what extent the loss will be, and the reasons for the same ;

(c) whether Union Minister of Finance had a long discussion with Ministry of Steel in regard to the ways and means of improving the productivity of the Public Sector Steel plants; and

(d) if so, how far this discussion has helped to increase the productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) In terms of ingot steel, the production at the three Plants of Hindustan Steel Limited during 1970-71 was to the extent of 61.2% of the installed capacity. The Company incurred a loss of Rs. 10.47 crores in 1969-70. The accounts for the year 1970-71 are being compiled and the exact position would be known only after the accounts are closed and audited. The present indications, however, are that the Company would incur a loss during 1970-71 also, which might be more or less of the same order as in the preceding year. The loss is primarily due to shortfalls in production in the Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants, which, in turn, was due partly to disturbed industrial relations throughout the year in Durgapur and during the first half of the year in Rourkela. There were also certain technical and operational constraints/ deficiencies at these Plants.

(c) and (d) The meeting with the Finance Minister took place on the 30th April, 1971. At this meeting, the performance of the Company was discussed and the various steps to be taken to attain higher production in 1971-72 were considered. A number of measures designed to achieve this end have already been initiated.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF SUGAR

968. SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of sugar has registered a rise in the midst of this peak season; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) There was some increase in the price of sugar