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18.	IND/82/043 Manufacture of Dapsone, Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceticals, Calcutta	—do—	20,000	August, 1982	
19.	IND/76/0022 Under-ground Copper Mining, Hindustan Copper Ltd., Calcutta	—do—	315,303	December, 1978	
20.	IND/82/025 Strengthening of the Collage of Leather Technology, Ministry of Industry through Department of Technical Education, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta	—do—	551,975	December, 1983	

#### Production of Cardamom

2782. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of cardamom during the last year;

(b) whether there is any loss in production;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to give subsidy to the cultivators as an incentive for more production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). The production of cardamom in the last season 1983-84 was 1600 tonnes which was much below the average annual production. This drastic fall in production was due to unprecedented drought in the cardamom producing States during two consecutive seasons.

(d) Government has approved the following Schemes of the Cardamom Board to assist the drought affected growers :

#### (1) Replanting Loan-cum-Subsidy Scheme :

Under this scheme an area of 15,000 hectares (7500 hectares for small growers and 7500 hectares for large growers) will be covered in 3 years. Small growers owning upto 8 hectares are being paid cash subsidy

of Rs. 2500 per hectare in three annual instalments of Rs. 1000, Rs. 800 and Rs. 700. Loan component is Rs. 7750 per hectare to be arranged from financial Institution on which 3% interest subsidy is being granted. The large growers are entitled to a cash subsidy of Rs. 1500 per hectare in three annual instalments of Rs. 1000, Rs. 300 and Rs. 200. Loan component is Rs. 8750 per hectare.

#### (2) Production of Seedlings in Polythene bags in certified Nurseries :

50% cost of seed material and polythene bags are subsidised under this scheme.

#### (3) Opening of more certified Nurseries :

This scheme is being implemented from 1983-84 onwards. Total financial outlay involved is Rs. 25.5 lakhs for 3 years. 25% of the cost of production of seedlings, not exceeding 50 paise per seedling is subsidised.

As a result of these schemes, the production during 1984-85 is estimated at 3,500 M. Tonnes.

#### Failure of Hindustan Copper Limited to Meet Copper Requirement

2783. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken exception to the failure of the State-owned

Hindustan Copper Limited to meet the urgent copper requirement of the defence ordnance factories as also that of the other industries in full;

(b) if so, whether during the month of February, 1985 Government had reviewed the domestic copper availability and demand;

(c) if so, whether while going to review the position, it was brought to the notice that HCL has not only resulted in a premium market in copper but also that emergent imports has led to a colossal drain on scarce foreign exchange;

(d) if so, whether Government have shown concern about failure of HCL; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken and the methods suggested in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). Government are aware of demand and supply position of copper in the country. The supply and demand position of copper is periodically reviewed in inter-Ministerial meetings under the Chairmanship of Director General (Technical Development), for taking suitable remedial measures whenever called for. In the meeting held on 7-2-1985, it was noticed that there has been some backlog of supplies from Hindustan Copper Ltd. to certain sectors. HCL was advised to transfer the backlog of requirement registered with it to the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation and also issue a trade notice to that effect. The Company was also advised to get in touch with the Director General, Ordnance Factories to meet their requirements. The Company has complied with the above directions. It has also taken steps to meet the requirement of Ordnance Factories on a time-bound programme. Arrangements have been made to meet a demand of 1000 tonnes of copper of one of the Ordnance Factories from MMTC. The matter has been further reviewed in a meeting chaired by DG., TD., on 26th March, 1985.

**Loss Suffered by Coffee Houses in Capital run by Coffee Board**

2784. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coffee houses run by the Coffee Board in the capital have been showing losses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Coffee Houses were started for promotion of coffee and not as commercial ventures. Hence accounts are not maintained on a commercial basis but the excess of expenditure over receipts in 1983-84 were of the order of Rs. 9 lakhs for Coffee Houses in Delhi.

[Translation]

**Tax Arrears against Sick Industries/ Mills**

2785. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of tax arrears against sick industries/mills and since when they have been outstanding; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to recover these amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The tax arrears are not maintained separately for sick industries/mills. If such an information is required in respect of any factory or mill, the same can be obtained and furnished if the hon. Member specifies the particulars of the factory or mill.

As regard the steps taken by the Government to recover arrears, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to recover the arrears of taxes as provided under the law.

[English]

**Study of Government Finance by I.M.F.**

2786. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comparative study of Government finances by the International Monetary Fund shows that total outlays expenditure and lending minus repayments are outpacing overall economic growth;