

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;