

(c) The yearly budget of the Authority for the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85

is as follows :—

Expenditure		(Rs. in lakhs)
		Receipts
1982-83	1474.64	1555.46
1983-84	1720.84	1581.70
1984-85	1395.06	1572.17

Increase in Prices of Steel

303. SHRI MOOL CNAND DAGA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the prices of steel having been increased frequently over the past two and a half years period, the public sector steel plants have consistently suffered increasing losses ;

(b) if so, since when this condition is continuing and the reasons therefor ;

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the production for earning profits and the results thereof ;

(d) whether Government have undertaken any study of the working to Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd. to compare the same with public Sector Steel Plants which are undergoing losses and less production consistently ; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) : The price increases allowed to the public sector steel plants during the the past few years did not fully compensate the producers for the escalations in the costs of inputs.

SAIL started incurring losses from 1982-83, while IISCO has been incurring losses since a number of years. Other reasons for losses have been the constraints of coking coal, power supply, obsolete technology and ageing of plants requiring higher maintenance.

(c) Efforts are being made to ensure adequate inputs and of the right quality, better maintenance, increase in

capacity utilisation and attainment of improved technological norms. Efforts are also being made to contain expenditure, reduce inventories and to adopt cost reduction measures.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Loans Taken by Industrialists from Nationalised Banks

304. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of industrialists had taken loans from the Central Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda on large scale and have not repaid the same for a long period ;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that these banks have indiscriminately granted loans to the various industrialists and great manipulation was done in sanctioning these loans ;

(c) if so, the total number of industrialists involved and the action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard ; and

(d) the time by which the loan sanctioned by these banks will be recovered from them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) There are cases in all banks including the banks mentioned in part (a) of the question, where loans advanced to various units have become overdue for a variety of reasons. There are also cases of irregular/fraudulent

advances. In all such cases, the banks consider various alternatives and adopt the most suitable course of action keeping in view the merits of individual cases. The options before the banks include nursing of the units, enforcing of securities, recall of the advances or or launching of prosecution in cases of fraudulent deals. Suitable action is also taken against officials of the banks who may be involved in the fraudulent deals after necessary enquiry. In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the nationalised banks and the practice and usages prevalent among them, information relating to individual constituents of the bank cannot be disclosed.

Meeting held to Discuss Matters Pertaining to Planning, Production, Transportation and Distribution of Coal Resources During Seventh Five Year Plan.

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

(a) whether a meeting of the representatives from a number of organisations including steel, coal industries, railways, trade unions and State Governments was held on the 13th February, 1985 to discuss matters pertaining to planning, production, transportation and distribution of coal resources during the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions held ;

(c) whether the working group on the coal advisory body had a number of meetings and discussions with the various organisations to improve the coal production and also distribution policy ;

(d) the agreed proposals that have emerged out of these discussions ; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The meeting of the Coal Advisory Council, comprising of representatives from

various organisations connected with the coal sector, was held on 15.2.85 (and not on 13.2.1985 as mentioned in the question). A number of suggestions regarding production, distribution, transportation, quality of coal, safety and health of the coal miners were made by the members attending the meeting. The proceedings of the meeting have been circulated to the members concerned inviting their comments thereon. Further action will be taken after receipt of views of the members.

(c) to (e). No working group on Coal Advisory Body is functioning and as such the question of its meeting and discussions with various organisations to improve production and distribution does not arise.

Recovery of Loan Owed to Three Indian Banks By A Business Empire in UK.

306. SHRI B.V. DESAI :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recovery of over 200 million owed to the Indian banks, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank and Union Bank by a business empire in U.K. whose business has collapsed in that country, is doubtful ;

(b) if so, the total amounts drawn from these banks ;

(c) the total amount of loan recovered so far and the amount still due ;

(d) whether Union Government dismissed heads of the three banks on the 17th Febuary, 1985 ; and

(e) if so, the other steps Government propose to take to improve the working of these banks and also all other nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has