

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member has referred to the Working Group set up by the Government on 28-8-1984 to evaluate the functioning of regional rural banks. The Working Group has not yet submitted its report.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have proposed some amendments to Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 with a view to streamline the organisational structure and functioning of the regional rural banks. Proposals in this regard when concretised will come before the Houses of Parliament in the form of legislative proposals.

#### Problem in Alloy Steels at Durgapur

2919. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are some problems in the Alloy Steels at Durgapur;

(b) if so, the details of the problems;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to solve those problems; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main problems of Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur are as under :—

- (i) Low capacity utilisation due to non-availability of adequate power and coke oven gas. In the absence of sufficient power supply from DVC, full expanded plant could not be operated.
- (ii) Outdated technology resulting in lower yield and higher cost of production.
- (iii) Uneconomic selling prices due to stiff competition in the market for alloy steel.

(iv) Higher cost of production due to escalation in the cost of inputs. Prices of scrap, nickel, ferro nickel and other ferro alloys increased substantially during 1984-85 compared to 1983-84.

(v) High labour cost per unit of production due to large surplus labour force as compared to that envisaged in the Detailed Project Report.

(c) and (d). The following steps have been taken to solve the problems :

- (i) Efforts have been made to obtain additional power from DVC in order to implement the expanded capacity under Stage-I.
- (ii) The technology is being updated by providing Vacuum Arc Degassing, Vacuum Oxygen Decarburisation and continuous casting machine which will improve the product mix by producing high value items.
- (iii) The import duty on nickel oxide sinter has been reduced from 87% to 30% and that on ferro nickel from 85% to 30%.
- (iv) The expansion units of the Plant are being operated since 3rd November, 1985 by re-deploying the existing manpower. (The labour problem on the issue which led to stoppage of production in October, 1985 has since been sorted out through negotiations).

#### Income Tax Raids Carried Out at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras during September & October, 1985

2920. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income tax raids carried out during the months of September, October and November in the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras;

(b) the findings of the raids and the amount of unaccounted money seized from the parties concerned in each city;

(c) particulars of such among them as have been found with unaccounted money for over (i) Rupees 5 lakhs (ii) Rs. 10 lakhs (iii) Rs. 20 lakhs and (iv) above; and

(d) the follow up action taken in these cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The number of income-tax searches conducted and value of prima-facie, unaccounted assets seized during the months of September, October, and November 1985 in the four metropolitan cities are as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Name of the city	Number of searches	Value of assets seized
Delhi	29	4.25
Bombay	500	445.33
Calcutta	315	345.74
Madras	100	36.60

(c) and (d). Number of cases as per value of assets seized during the months of September, October and November, 1985 is as under :—

Name of the city	Number of cases		
	Above Rs. 5 lakhs	Above Rs. 10 lakhs	Above Rs. 20 lakhs
Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bombay	4	3	2
Calcutta	4	1	3
Madras	Nil	Nil	1

Necessary action under various provisions of Direct Taxes Acts has been initiated in all these cases.

#### Amenities to Tourist in Darjeeling, Nalanda, Kaziranga and Konark

2921. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to reverse the fall in tourist traffic in recent months;

(b) the trend of tourist traffic in Darjeeling, Nalanda, Kaziranga and Konark;

(c) whether the percentage of foreign tourists staying in these places is very low;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps Government have proposed to take to improve the amenities at these four places during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) In order to reverse the fall in tourist traffic, the Department of Tourism embarked on a vigorous reassurance campaign overseas aimed at projecting the fact that India is a vast country of continental dimensions, and that despite some disturbances at a few places the country as a whole is by and large free from disturbances and that foreign tourists are absolutely safe anywhere. Also the marketing plans of our overseas offices have been evolved on the basis of direct consumers advertising, press, inviting selected travel operators and media people to visit India and sending promotional delegations to key markets.

(b) and (c). The statistics on domestic tourists are not available with the Department. The arrival figures for foreign tourists visiting India from different States/ places in the country are calculated at the points of entry and not State-wise. As per the Foreign Tourist Survey 1982-83, 1.55% of the total foreign tourists visiting India spent at least one night in Darjeeling. Similar information in respect of Nalanda, Kaziranga and Konark is, however, not available.