

Losses in Hindustan Copper Ltd.

2974. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Hindustan Copper Limited has been suffering huge loss every year;

(b) if so, the total amount of loss suffered by the Company during the last three years;

(c) the reason therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to put the Hindustan Copper Limited on sound footing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The loss incurred during the last three years has been :

Year	Loss incurred (Rs. Crores)
1982-83	29.63
1983-84	6.78*
1984-85 (Provisional)	3.15*

*After interest holiday on Govt. loan.

(c) The main reasons for the adverse financial performance of the Company have been low grade of ore and scale of operations, design deficiency in certain sections, as also shortage and high cost of power.

(d) Steps being taken to improve the working of Hindustan Copper Limited include debottlenecking and modernisation of smelters and refineries at the Khetri Copper Complex and the Indian Copper Complex, stepping up of ore production at Malanjkhand and manpower planning.

Review of Working of General Insurance Corporation and Life Insurance Corporation

2975. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the clauses in the Health Insurance Scheme of the General Insurance Corporation forbids payment of claims in case diseases such as gastroenteritis is contacted within 30 days of issuance of the cover;

(b) if so, whether the entire working of GIC/LIC would be reviewed; and

(c) whether Government propose to associate/nominate a representative of the consumer Organizations on the Governing Body of LIC/GIC in order to protect policy-holders' common interests.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Hospitalisation and Domiciliary Hospitalisation Benefit Policy recently introduced by the general insurance industry contains an exclusion clause which excludes any disease or illness, including gastroenteritis, contracted by the insured person within the first thirty days from the date of commencement of the policy. A waiting period before commencement of risk is the general practice in such policies throughout the World. This is, however, only with a view to avoid an insured persons claiming benefits under the policy for a disease already contracted by him prior to commencement of the policy, as the policy is issued on the basis of insured's own declaration without any medical examination. This exclusion does not apply in cases of renewal of policy on its expiry.

(b) In view of reply to (a), the need to review the entire working of GIC/LIC is not considered necessary. However, performance of GIC/LIC is reviewed periodically.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. However, various interests are represented on the Boards of LIC/GIC.

Seizure of Heroin, Smack and other Narcotics by Customs

2976. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :
SHRI ANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :