

(b) The ambitious plan of China to modernise its Navy, with guided missiles and electronic nuclear and automatic weapons, is likely to have an impact on the maritime security environment in the Indian Ocean.

(c) China has been one of the suppliers of Naval weapons to Pakistan.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir, the modernisation programmes of these two countries are likely to have security implications for India. The Government of India reviews constantly the growing threat to India's security from the induction of Naval hardware in our areas of interests. The Indian Navy's acquisition and construction plans are suitably updated to meet emerging or possible situations.

#### **Benefits to Military Personnel under the Military Manpower Planning Programme**

19. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a more scientific approach to military manpower planning is being formulated by his Ministry in the light of the experience of the two recent cadre reviews and the rising expectations of the three services with regard to career prospects and emoluments ;

(b) if so, the proposals that are being considered under the programme ;

(c) the extent to which the benefits will be made available to the military personnel ; and

(d) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (d). Two Cadre Reviews have been undertaken during the last few years to

remove certain imbalances and stagnation in the various ranks of the Armed Forces and to improve their career prospects. A number of posts were upgraded to ensure better promotion avenues for the men as well as the officers. For certain officer ranks, Selection grades were introduced ; besides, time frames for promotion have also been reduced. The quota of honorary commissions for Junior Commissioned officers have also been increased.

Government are committed to the concept of improving the lot of all its employees including those in the armed forces. The Fourth Pay Commission set up by the Government are also examining certain proposals regarding pay structure of the Military personnel.

#### **Achievement of Target of Saleable Steel by Public Sector Steel Plants**

20. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector steel plants are anywhere near achieving the 1984-85 target of saleable steel ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) if so, whether this achievement would also help the plants to record higher profits ; and

(d) whether cost of steel production had also gone up in public sector steel plants and if so, reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. During the year 1984-85, the public sector integrated steel plants are set to achieve their annual targets of saleable steel production. The targets and actual achievement during the 9 months period April-December, 1984 are given below ;

('000 tonnes)

Plant	Target 1984-85	April-December 1984			Actuals during April-Dec. 1983
		Target	Actual	%Fulfillment	
SAIL plants including IISCO	5410	3743	3602	96.2%	3241

The production in SAIL plants including IISCO during April-December 1984 is 11% higher than that during April-December 1983.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The achievement of target of saleable steel will help SAIL in improving its financial performance.

(d) The cost of production of saleable steel has been going up over the years as will be seen from the following table :

Year	Cost of production of saleable steel in four integrated steel plants of SAIL (Rs./T)	Increase in cost of production of saleable steel over previous year (Rs./T)
1980-81	2553	...
1981-82	2859	...
1982-83	3432	...
1983-84	3970	...

The main reasons for increase in the cost of production is the increase in the cost of various inputs like coal, power, petro-fuels, labour cost over the period.

[Translation]

#### Decline in Tax Collection

21. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a 10 per cent decline in tax collection this year ;

(b) if so, the amount of taxes which should have been collected and the amount by which the collections fell short this year ; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

#### Bringing the Weaker Sections above Poverty Line

22. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to bring the weaker sections of the society above poverty line during the last five years ;