

**Delay in Completion of Expansion of B.S.P**

2976. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was delay in the completion of Four million Tonnes expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant started in September, 1971;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the turnkey Contractors (BHPVL) of ACF for the delay; and

(d) the reasons for the frequent change in the scope of expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The commissioning schedule of 4 MT expansion including Cold Rolling Mill of Bokaro Steel Plant was December 1982. It is now expected to be commissioned in May 1989.

(c) M/s BHPVL whom the assignment of the additional oxygen facilities was awarded on turn-key basis have been able to complete the scheme with marginal slippages. After completion of all obligations under the contract by M/s BHPVL, action required to be taken, if any, for delay will be decided by SAIL/BSL.

(d) During the course of actual operation of the plant it was felt by SAIL that certain facilities provided in the DPR would be inadequate to achieve the production levels. This led to inclusion of certain new units like 7th Rotary Kiln, Stripoor Yard, additional Coil Yard and additional Oxygen Facilities in the 4 MT expansion beyond the scope of the original project.

**ICCR's Cultural Programmies**

2977. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by Indian Council for Cultural Relations on organising the cultural programmes during the current year so far;

(b) whether there has been any audit objections to such programmes during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Council on these objections?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The Local Audit Report for 1985-86 had drawn attention to the irregularities in the printing and sales of tickets and shortfalls in the deposit of sale proceeds amounting to Rs. 5145/- for cultural programmes organised during 1985-86.

(c) The procedures have since been streamlined to prevent any recurrence of the lapses pointed out by Audit.

**Withholding of Result of M.Phil Examination of Delhi University**

2978. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether the result of M.Phil (Hindi) examination held in April 1987 Delhi University (South Campus) has been partly withheld for the last 18 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the compensation proposed to be given to the affected candidates for the loss of two academic years for no fault of theirs; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken to prevent recurrence of such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (d). According to the information furnished by Delhi University, the M.Phil (Hindi) examination consists of written papers, a dissertation submitted thereafter and a viva voce. As such there is an in-built time lag between the written examination and the declaration of the final result. The results of M.Phil (Hindi) examination held in April 1987 were declared in June, 1988. The results of two candidates, which were held-up because their admission was not approved, have since been declared and intimated to them.

#### **Closing of Mines in Kolar Gold Fields**

2979. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Gold Mines in Kolar Gold Fields;

(b) the names of such mines which have already been closed;

(c) whether the remaining Gold Mines are going to be closed in a phased manner; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to rehabilitate those who lost their jobs due to closure of mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (d). The Kolar Gold Fields consists of three Mines namely (i) Mysore (ii) Nundydroog and (iii) Champion Reef Mine. Progressive exhaustion of reserves and mining at great depths have rendered the operations at K.G.F. uneconomical and, therefore, the Govt. has decided to phase out these mines over a period of seven years. However, no mine has so far been closed and, therefore, the question of any workman losing his job in account of phasing out of any of the mines does not arise. After the phasing out of the old mines, the employees to the extent possible, would be accommodated in alternative trades in diversification activities and in Shallow Gold Mines which are under

exploration or development currently and likely to come up for exploitation in the next few years.

#### **Incidence of Royalty and Tax on Minerals**

2980. SHRI E. AYYAPPU REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of royalty collected by each State under the Mines and Minerals regulation Act in the year 1987 and 1988;

(b) the amount collected by the States as mineral taxes and fees etc., on the basis of the royalty;

(c) the royalty and tax imposed by each State on limestone, coal and iron ore; and

(d) whether Government have considered the desirability of bringing uniformity in the incidence of royalty-cum-tax on mineral of the same category throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Rates of royalty that may be collected by each State is notified by the Central Government under section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 for minerals other than minor minerals. The rates of royalty notified on the 5th May, 1987 have been in force since that date. The notified rates are given in Statement I below.

(b) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The available information on the tax imposed by the States in addition to the royalty notified by the Central Government on limestone, coal and iron ore is given in Statement II below.

(d) Since the different levies such as mineral rights tax, cess, land tax etc. imposed by some State Governments have an impact on the prices of minerals exports and inputs for mineral based industries, it would be