

TRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The main achievements of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) during the VIIth Plan period are indicate below:—

- (i) Growth of 30% in the mine production over the terminal year of VIth Plan.
- (ii) Record capacity utilisation of 94% in Smelter plants during 1988-89.
- (iii) Production of blister copper during 1988-89 to the extent of 105% of the target envisaged for the terminal year of VIIth Plan.
- (iv) Continuous profits from the year 1987-88 onwards.

(b) to (d). The outlays and the schemes for modernisation of Hindustan Copper Limited for Eighth Plan period will be drawn up only after the Eighth Plan is approved by the Government.

Deep Sea Fishing Trawlers

3399. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deep-sea fishing trawlers expected to join the existing Indian fleet during 1989 and 1990 from foreign and Indian shipyards, separately;

(b) the number of such trawlers permitted for shrimp-fishing;

(c) whether the existing shrimp resources are on the verge of extinction; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to conserve the shrimp resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Due to various uncertainties, no firm figure regarding the number of deep sea fishing trawlers expected to join the existing Indian fleet during 1989 and 1990 can be given.

(b) No permission has been given in recent years to acquire trawlers for shrimp fishing.

(c) and (d). There is no evidence to suggest that shrimp resources are on the verge of extinction. However, in order to conserve the shrimp resources the following steps have been taken:—

- i) Acquisition of shrimp trawlers for operation in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone is not permitted.
- ii) Fitment of outrigger or any shrimping device is not allowed.
- iii) The condition on area restriction in the shrimping ground has been imposed in the Letter of Permission for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels.
- iv) Incidental catch of shrimp is restricted to 3% by weight in case of stern trawlers operated under 100% Export Oriented Schemes.

Coordination between IGNOU and other Open Universities

3400. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University is contemplating to coordinate the courses offered by the other existing Open Universities in the country to avoid duplication of work and make them more

purposeful; and

(b) if so, the work done by Indira Gandhi National Open University so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b). According to the IGNOU Act, 1985, the Indira Gandhi National Open University is responsible for the promotion, coordination and determination of standards in the Open University and Distance Education System in the country. In pursuance of this, the IGNOU has set up a Coordination Council of Open Universities with a view to develop a network of Open University courses and programmes. The network when established should minimise duplication of efforts among Open Universities and facilities sharing of courses and programmes by two or more Open Universities.

Indian Defence Personnels in Chinese and Pakistani Jails

3401. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian defence personnel languishing in the prisons of China and Pakistan at present;

(b) the period of their imprisonment; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to release them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). 54 missing Indian defence personnel are believed to be in Pakistani jails since 1971; none in Chinese jails.

(c) Efforts are being continuously made for their return to India.

Package Scheme for Poultry Farmers

3402. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced an attractive package of incentives for the poultry farmers, especially those in the small and medium scale category; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the recent Union Budget, Government have announced attractive package of incentives to Poultry farmers such as relief on income tax and reduction of import duty on amino acid and egg and poultry equipments.

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

3403. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the implementation of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme in each State and Union Territory during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) whether any assessment about the percentage of beneficiaries to the total number of farm holdings has been made in respect of various States Union Territories;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and