

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has been conducted into the causes of such a fire and findings thereof, if any;

(c) whether the persons responsible have been punished; and

(d) the extent of loss due to the fire in rupees?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The case was investigated by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police. They reported that despite the best efforts no clue to work out the case could be found and they treated the case as untraced.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Approx. Rs. 19,62,620.

Demands of Employees of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

1303. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Thumba have submitted any demands to the management for the redressal of their grievances; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The demands, which have been received very recently, relate mainly to service matters, career opportunities, staff welfare and other facilities. They are under examination.

Loss Suffered by H.E.C.

1304. **SHRI SHEO SAMPAT:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loss suffered by the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi since its inception; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA): (a) The cumulative loss suffered by the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi, since its inception till 31st March, 1976 was Rs. 115.29 crores. The accounts for the year 1976-77 are under compilation.

(b) The slow build up of production was one of the main factors responsible for HEC incurring losses till 1974-75. With the introduction of a number of measures including: systematic production planning and control, preventive maintenance of equipment and installation of balancing equipment, the production of the company has improved. In 1975-76 the company for the first time registered a profit of Rs. 2.14 crores. This trend is likely to be maintained in 1976-77. To further improve the performance of HEC Government is taking steps to reorganise and strengthen the managerial structure of HEC.

Development of a New Port at Pipavav

1305. **SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineers India Limited has prepared a report about the possibility of development of a new port with modern facilities at Pipavav on Sauashtra Coast;

(b) whether Port Pipavav has been found to be an ideal on-shore base for off-shore exploration; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the development of port Pipavav for off-shore exploration and for establishing salt based industries?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Report was submitted to the Government of Gujarat.