

Production during 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77 was as under:—

Year	Burnpur Steel Plant		Kulti Works	
	Steel Ingots	Saleable Steel	Spun Pipes	Castings
	(Tonnes)			
1974-75	532,000	415,000	119,246	38,004
1975-76	630,000	500,000	121,906	33,460
1976-77	667,000	542,000	99,943	30,045

The working results were as under:—

Year	Profit (+), Loss (—) (Rs. Crores)
1974-75	(+) 1.05
1975-76	(—) 5.61
1976-77	(—) 11.24 (estimated)

(b) The main reasons for the losses are:—

- (i) Out-dated technology adopted for the manufacture of iron and steel;
- (ii) the interest burden is disproportionately high;
- (iii) Higher cost of inputs;
- (iv) Increased wages to steel workers;
- (v) Inadequate attention paid in the past to replacements repairs, etc; and
- (vi) Fall in demand for spun pipes produced at Kulti.

(c) The following steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken, to improve the economic viability of IISCO:—

- (i) Plant Rehabilitation Scheme at a cost of Rs. 61 crores is being implemented to restore the capacity of the steel plant at Burnpur to its rated level. About 80 per cent of the scheme has been completed;
- (ii) Certain other capital schemes estimated to cost about Rs. 42.5

crores over the next ten years, have also been undertaken for increased productivity and sustained production;

(iii) The technology used at present in the steel plant for manufacture of iron and steel, is out-dated. Schemes for modernisation of iron and steel making facilities are being formulated;

(iv) Some measures to strengthen the management structure of the plant have been taken;

(v) It is proposed to examine and, if necessary, suitably restructure the company's capital so that the debt equity ratio is reasonable.

Telephone Facilities to Rural Areas

1625. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the precise position obtaining in regard to provision of telephone facilities in rural areas;

(b) the criteria under which such facilities are provided in rural areas;

(c) the current availability of telephone services in rural areas of Salem District of Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether Government propose to develop such facilities as a regular measure; and

(e) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Normally telephone facility is provided at a place having a post office if the proposal is financially viable. In order to extend this facility to underdeveloped areas, a liberal policy is followed for providing telephone facilities at the following categories of stations irrespective of the revenue earned and loss sustained:—

- (1) District headquarters.
- (2) Sub Divisional headquarters.
- (3) Tehsil headquarters.
- (4) Sub Tehsil headquarters.
- (5) Block headquarters.
- (6) Places having a population exceeding 10,000

In the following categories of stations, the telephone facility is provided if the anticipated annual revenue is at least 25 per cent of the Annual Recurring Expenditure (ARE):

- (1) Places beyond 40 Kms. from a working telephone exchange.
- (2) Places having population of 5,000 situated within 12.5 Kms. of an existing exchange.
- (3) Tourist/pilgrim centres.
- (4) Agricultural/irrigation and power project sites/townships.

In these four categories of stations, the condition of minimum revenue is

further relaxed to 15 per cent of the ARE in the case of backward areas, and 10 per cent of ARE in the case of hilly areas. For both hill and backward areas, the population limit is also relaxed to 2,500.

If a place does not fall under any of the above categories and the scheme to provide a Public Call Office at the place is showing a loss, the facility can be provided on rent and guarantee basis provided some interested party is willing to indemnify the loss to the Department.

The position relating to provision of telephone facility at various category stations is shown in the attached Statement.

(c) The number of places having telephone facilities in the rural areas of Salem District is 52.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The facilities are being provided in a phased manner as per policy at (a) and (b) above. During the 5th Five Year Plan it was proposed to provide Public Call Offices (PCO) facilities at 3,500 places. In the first three years of the Plan, 2582 places have been provided with telephone facilities.

Statement

Statement showing provision of Telephone facility at various categories of stations as on 1-1-1977.

Category of stations.	Total No.	No. provided with Telephone facilities
1	2	3
1. District H.Q.	384	379
2. Sub Divisional H.Q.	646	596
3. Tehsil H.Q.	1597	1565
4. Sub Tehsil H.Q.	283	212

	1	2	3
5. Block H.Q.		3556	2916
6. Places with population of 10,000 or more		1059	914
7. Places with population of 5,000 or more situated within 12.5 Kms. of an existing exchange.		1797*	1005
8. Places in remote localities i.e. places at having a Telephone Exchanges within 40 Kms. radial distance.		*	168
9. Tourist/Pilgrim Centres	9		168
10. Agriculture/Irrigation and Power Project sites and townships.	10		95
		TOTAL	8018

* Subject to change with opening of new exchanges.

9. Cases considered as and when they are taken up.

बिहार में बेरोजगारी की समस्या

1626. श्री रामानन्द तिवारी : क्या संसदीय कार्य और भ्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पिछड़े क्षेत्रों जैसे बिहार में बेरोजगारी की समस्या हल करने के लिए विशेष योजनाएं तैयार की जाएंगी।

(ख) केन्द्र सरकार की बिहार स्थित संस्थाओं और कार्यालयों में काम करने वाले बिहार के व्यक्तियों की प्रतिशतता क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार का बिहार के लोगों के अनुपात को बढ़ाने के लिए कोई ठोस और समय बद्ध कार्यक्रम बनाने का विचार है ;

संसदीय कार्य तथा भ्रम मंत्री (श्री रबीन्द्र वर्मा) : (क) सरकार दस वर्षों के निश्चित समय के अन्दर देश में सभी क्षेत्रों से दरिद्रता को दूर करने के लिए कटिबद्ध है। इस उद्देश्य के लिए सरकार रोजगारोन्मुख नीति को अपनाएगी जिसमें विशेषरूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कृषि, कृषि उद्योग और लघु तथा कुटीर उद्योगों को प्रधानता दी जाएगी। इस नीति के समतुल्य 1977-78 के लिए केन्द्रीय बजट का उद्देश्य उत्पादन के विकास की उच्चतर दर प्राप्त करने में अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित करना और यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि कृषि, लघु तथा ग्रामीण उद्योगों और ग्रामीण अधोसंरचना में वित्तियोजन पर प्रमुखता के माध्यम से आर्थिक प्रगति के नतीजे यथासंभव सुविस्तृत हों।

(ख) और (ग). केन्द्रीय सरकार के संस्थानों तथा बिहार में स्थित कार्यालयों में काम करने वाले बिहार के व्यक्तियों की संख्या के संबंध में सूचना उपलब्ध नहीं है। तथापि, चूंकि केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारी का देश के एक भाग से दूसरे भाग में स्थाान्तरण हो सकता है, इसलिए कोई भी स्थानीय या क्षेत्रीय अनुपात प्राप्त नहीं है।

पहले से ही अनुदेश है कि जहां तक हो सके उन नीकरियों में जिनका मूल वेतन 500 - ६० प्रति माह से अधिक नहीं है, भर्ती केवल स्थानीय रोजगार कार्यालयों के माध्यम से ही की जाएं।

Relations with Neighbouring Countries

1627. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the positive steps; if any, being contemplated