

Report of Working Group on Salt

323. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Working Group set up by the Central Government to look into the question of improvement in salt manufacturing technology production of quality salt and imparting training has since submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Losses Suffered by Hindustan Copper Limited in 1982-83

325. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Copper Limited had suffered huge losses in 1982-83;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) how it is proposed to check the losses and bring improvement in the working of this public sector undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) and (b) Hindustan Copper Limited had reduced the loss to Rs. 29.63 crores during 1982-83 as against a loss of Rs. 42.55 crores during 1981-82. The major reasons for the losses incurred by the Company during 1982-83 were:—

(i) Serious power shortages particularly at Khetri Copper Complex in Rajasthan resulting in low production.

(ii) Low grade of ore resulting in high cost of production.

(iii) Steep escalation in cost of various inputs.

(iv) Uneconomic selling price of copper.

(v) Unfavourable debt-equity ratio.

(c) Some of the measures taken/being taken to improve the working results of the company are augmenting captive power generation, improving recovery ratio efficiency, better inventory control, revamping the capital structure and accelerating mine development leading to better capacity utilisation.

Construction of Barbed Wire Fencing along Indo-Bangla Border

326. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI NAVIN RAVANI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee of engineers appointed by Assam Government have completed the inspection of the border area of Assam for constructing barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) whether report has been received by Central Government;

(c) if so, what are the suggestions made;

(d) what will be the cost for it; and

(e) the action taken by Centre thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) to (e) The Government of India have decided to erect a fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border to prevent illegal infiltration and for this purpose have appointed a technical committee to recommend the type and manner of fencing that should be constructed. The recommendations are awaited.