

1984) ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and steps being taken to meet this situation ;

(c) whether ad hocism in Steel Authority of India Limited is one of the many maladies afflicting the public sector steel industry; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to overcome this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) The profit and loss position of SAIL plants in 1983-84 will be known only after the accounts for the year are finalised.

SAIL's profit/loss position in the last three years is as follows :-

(All figures in Rs. crores) (Increase in costs less increase in net realisation over the previous year).

Year	Profit (+)/Loss (-)	
1980-81	(+) 1.01	(45)
1981-82	(+) 39.17	(-) 15)
1982-83	(-) 105.76	(115)

The main reason for the losses of SAIL is that net realisation continues to be lower than the increase in costs, as set in the following table :

(All figures is Rs. crores)

	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Estimated increased in sales realisation of SAIL over the previous year (steel and pig iron).	125	319	231
Increase in costs over the previous year.			
— raw materials, spares, power.	124	232	199
— Salaries & wages	29	42	57
— maintenance	3	10	3
— depreciation	1	9	9
— interest	15	11	78
Total increase in costs over the previous year of the above items.	170	304	346

In order to reduce the losses and improve performance, SAIL is making every effort to diversify its product-mix to better match demand, accelerate sales by adoption of an aggressive marketing strategy and thereby reduced stocks of finished goods, raw materials, stores and spares and export surplus production. Special measures to achieve cost reduction by improving technological processes, better maintenance to maximise the availability of equipment by timely repairs, minimisation of purchase of stores and spares and restriction of expenditure in all possible ways, have been also adopted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Working Group to Assess Progress in Space Science

5254. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed any Working Group to assess the progress made in the field of Space Science and by when India is likely to become self-reliant in this field ; and

(b) the details of the benefits derived so far by the country and the people from the Space programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY,

SPACE ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No Sir ; the Government has not appointed any Working Group.

(b) The main applications objectives of the Indian Space Programme are to meet national needs in satellite communications and remote sensing for resources survey and management in a self-reliant way. Details of the benefits derived so far are contained in the Space Research and Development Profile for the decade 1980-1990 as approved by the Government, and in the Annual Reports and Performance Budgets of the Department of Space, copies of which had been placed in the Parliament Library.

Claims Pending for Sanction of Freedom Fighters Pension

5255. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 5888 on 6 April, 1983 regarding sanction of freedom fighters pension to ex-INA personnel and state :

(a) the number of claims pending with Government for the sanction of freedom fighters pension as on 1 March, 1984, State-wise ;

(a) whether any step has been taken to clear the pending cases during the past

3 years including the current financial year ;

(c) if so, the nature thereof and the likely date by which the cases would be decided ; and

(d) whether any target has been fixed by Government by which all the cases would be decided and the entire work in this regard would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement. There are two categories of ex-INA personnel. Those who joined it from British Indian army are known as of military category and those who had joined INA from Civil life are known as of civilian category. In case of Military category of ex-INA personnel, a reference is made to the concerned Army Record Offices for verification of the claims of their participation in INA movement. The cases of Civilian Category of ex-INA personnel are decided on the basis of circumstantial evidence, as no official record is available to prove their detention or imprisonment at the hands of allied forces. All out efforts are being made to dispose off the cases as early as possible. In view of these facts, it is not possible to indicate the time limit for disposal of the applications.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PENDING EX-INA FREEDOM FIGHTERS CASES AS ON 18TH MARCH, 1984.

S. No.	State/U.T.	Pending ex-INA cases as on 28.2.83 as per U.S.Q. No. 5888 for 6.4.83.	Pending Ex-INA cases as on 1st March, 1984.	Pending Examination by the Special Screening Committee for New Guinea cases.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	12	6	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	52	30	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
4.	Assam	15	7	—
5.	Bihar	84	26	—