

to different sections of the public at different times in the day, keeping in view the limited resources with the Railways. Although there is a demand for additional trains between Rampur-hat and Bardhamaan, lack of resources such as coaches, line capacity and terminal facilities does not permit introduction of additional trains in this area at present.

Losses in Sambhar Salt Ltd. and the Hindustan Salt Ltd.

4422. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sambhar Salt Limited and the Hindustan Salt Limited incurred a huge loss in 1983 ; and

(b) if so, the details of losses, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to bring improvement in the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). During the accounting year 1982-83, (from 1st October, 1982 to 30th September, 1983), M/s Hindustan Salt Limited incurred a loss of Rs. 16.19 lakhs and M/s. Sambhar Salts Ltd. a loss of Rs. 28.37 lakhs (excluding loss of Rs. 19.49 lakhs owing to flood). During the period from 1st October, 1983 to 31st December, 1983, M/s Hindustan Salts Ltd, incurred a loss of Rs. 7.70 lakhs and M/s. Sambhar Salts Ltd. a loss of Rs. 7.50 lakhs.

Losses suffered by the Companies are due to escalation in costs of production due to increase in cost of inputs e.g. salaries, wages etc. without a corresponding increase in selling price, high interest liability on loans taken by the Companies and high inventories of salt. In order to improve the performance of the Companies, steps are being taken to effect savings in their operations to renovate/modernise Bromine Plant with a view to reduce costs, to introduce partial mechanisation of salt handling system and to undertake a more aggressive and effective sales strategy to liquidate inventories of salt.

Elementary Education

4423. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the year 1982-83, 40.6 lakhs children were freshly enrolled for elementary education and if so, what is the percentage of women, Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste and what is the target for such fresh enrolment for the year 1983-84 ;

(b) whether the restrictions of recruitment of teachers have also been removed to promote the cause of elementary education by enlarging the fresh enrolment year by year ; and

(c) whether in matters of recruitment of teachers for elementary education any preference is being given to women teachers who can handle the children's problem more efficiently than men and if so, give details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) According to the latest figures available, 46.33 lakh children were additionally enrolled during 1982-83 in elementary classes. Of these, 34.9 per cent were girls, 19.5 per cent were Scheduled Castes and 10.8 per cent were Scheduled Tribes. The target of additional enrolment in the elementary classes for the year 1983-84 is 47.025 lakhs.

(b) and (c). Recruitment of teachers for elementary education is basically the responsibility of the States who mostly manage school education, including elementary education. In the context of universalisation of elementary education, national campaigns are being launched. The points of major thrust in the guidelines for the campaign in 1984-85 circulated to all States and UTs, include a drive to fill up all vacancies of teachers by removing bans, if any, on filling up existing vacancies and recruitment of new teachers and a drive to recruit women teachers in particular.