

(b) the total number of employees working in the said Corporation ; and

(c) the total profit or loss during the last three years and the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The accounts for the year 1970-71 have not yet been finalised. The total investment up 31-3-1970 was about Rs. 189 crores.

(b) About 68,000 on 31-3-1971.

(c) The profit or loss during the last three years was as follows :

Year	Profit/Loss
(Rupees in lakhs)	
1968-69	(+) 121.70
1969-70	(+) 106.42
1970-71	(-) 42.00 (Provisional estimate)

The main reasons for the likely loss in 1970-71 are :

- (i) Increase in variable dearness allowance to workers, power tariff and cost of machinery and equipment without corresponding increase in the selling price of coal ;
- (ii) Inadequate demand for coal in the first half of the year ; and
- (iii) Unsatisfactory transport position.

Labour Welfare Rights for Handloom Workers

4262. SHRI K. GOPAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of handloom workers plight in the country ;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce Labour Welfare Rights for these workers ;

(c) if so, the rights proposed to be introduced : and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (d). The conditions of work of such handloom weavers as are employed in establishments governed by the Factories Act, 1948, are regulated by the provisions of that Act. The object of the Act is to provide for the safety, health and welfare of the workers in factories and to regulate their hours of work. Similarly the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, regulates the payment of wages, hours of work, and grant of paid weekly holiday to workers governed by that Act. It is open to the state Governments to extend the coverage of the Act to Handloom industry. The State Governments of Kerala and Orissa have already done so.

Central Assistance for Dry Farming by Tribals in Madhya Pradesh

4263. SHRI BHARAT SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the extent of financial help given by the Central Government to the Madhya Pradesh Government for dry farming by tribals ;
- (b) whether the Members of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh will be on the Advisory Board on Dry farming ; and
- (c) the names of areas selected for dry farming ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : Central assistance has been provided to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for implementing two Pilot Projects under Dry Farming. All participating farmers irrespective of tribals or non-tribals under these projects will be benefited. There is no scheme of dry farming for tribals specially.