

employment in working factories covered under the Factories Act, 1948 was 4,771 thousands (Provisional) in 1969. The figures for the years 1970 and 1971 are not yet available. The returns for 1970 figures are due in August, 1971.

(b) and (c). Employment figures of 1969 (4,771 thousands) show an increase of 0.33% over the figures of 1968 (4,755 thousands)

Vegetable Seed Processing Plant in Gujarat for Production of Quality Seed

2996. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Seed Corporation have decided to collaborate with United Nations International Childrens Emergency Fund in setting up vegetable seed processing plant in Gujarat State for the production of quality vegetable seeds to meet the growing demand under the Applied Nutrition Programme ; and

(b) the potential area of Gujarat in which such plants will be located ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNSAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The National Seeds Corporation has provided consultancy service to the Gujarat State for the establishment of a vegetable seed processing plant to be set up with assistance from the United Nations International Childrens Emergency Fund.

(b) The State Government consider Junagarh and Navsari as the Centres having potential for the location of vegetable seed processing plants.

Working of Government Owned and Private Mines

2997. SHRI BHUVARAHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government owned mines and private mines for coal, manganese, iron, zinc, gypsum, limestone etc., working at present, State-wise ; and

(b) the number of public and private sector undertakings who have been entrusted with this work ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANG-LAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House, when received.

Loss incurred by Hindustan Steel Limited

2998. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Ltd. have lost nearly one sixth of its invested capital ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The total investment of Government funds in Hindustan Steel Limited as on 31.3.1970 amounted to Rs. 1059.1 crores equity Rs. 557 crores and loans Rs. 502.1 crores—and as on 31.3.1971 to Rs. 1025.98 crores (equity Rs. 557 crores and loans Rs. 468.98 crores). By the end of the year 1969-70, the cumulative losses incurred by the Company came to Rs. 172.83 crores. The accounts for the year 1970-71 have not yet been finalised.

(b) The losses sustained by the Company are due to a number of reasons including such factors as incidence of high capital-related charges, effects of recession, disturbed industrial relations in some of the Plants, maintenance deficiencies short falls in production etc.

Funds for New Projects under Rural Drinking Water Scheme in Rajasthan

2999. RAJMATA GAYATRI DEVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government by way of grant have given to the State Government of Rajasthan enough funds to start a number of new projects under the Rural Drinking Water Scheme' and ;