

(c) the total number of officers working in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi in the scale of more than Rs. 15 per month ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The cumulative loss incurred up to the 31st March, 1970 is Rs. 58 90 crores. The estimated loss during 1970-71 is Rs. 16.00 crores.

(b) In the initial years of production, losses in a project of this size and type are inevitable due to heavy investments and a long gestation period. To a certain extent, the losses incurred by Heavy Engineering Corporation can also be attributed to slow build-up of production due to a combination of factors, including unsatisfactory industrial relations. The heavy burden of interest, depreciation and overheads have also contributed to these losses.

A number of steps have been and are being taken over a wide front to improve planning and production control, instal objective-oriented programmes, improve the efficiency of management and the productivity of workers. As a result of these measures, the performance of Heavy Engineering Corporation is expected to improve significantly over the next two years.

(c) 67.

Loss of Cotton Produce Due to Slump in its Price in Gujarat

522. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton growers of Gujarat have lost heavily as cotton prices have slumped, despite a smaller all-India crop of about 53 lakhs bales ;

(b) whether it is due to introduction of a new set of tightened credit restrictions by the Central banking authorities and the present policy of the Government towards cotton ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that Gujarat's cotton growing farmers are not discriminated and forced to sell their cotton at lower prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASHAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) In Gujarat, as well as in other cotton producing States, prices of cotton (lines) recorded sharp increases between September 1970 (the beginning of the current cotton season) and January, 1971. From February 1971, however, prices showed some fall. Despite this fall, the present prices are generally higher than those in the beginning of the season or at the corresponding period last year. The Economic Adviser's Index Number of Wholesale Prices for raw Cotton for the week ending 1st May, 1971 stood at 223.8, compared to the corresponding index 188.7 a year ago, thus showing a rise of about 19%.

(b) The fall in prices in recent months is due mainly to the withdrawal of the substituted demand for cotton by cotton mills ; actual and prospective arrivals of imported cotton ; Credit restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India and other price regulatory measures taken by Government.

(c) It is not correct to say that there is any discrimination against Gujarat's cotton growing farmers or forcing them to sell their cotton at lower prices. Whatever steps are taken are taken on the national level.

Representation from MPs regarding grievances of workers of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

523. SHRI DINESH JOARDER :
SHRI A. K. SAHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a letter from any Members of Parliament regarding the grievances of the workers of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi ;