

Both the cases are under investigation.

Bailadila Mines

4290. SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the date from which the work on Bailadila Iron Ore Project was started;

(b) the quantum of iron ore exported till March 31, 1998; and

(c) the total revenue received by the State Government and the Union Government from this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The construction work of Bailadila Iron Ore Project in Madhya Pradesh was started by National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) in 1964 and production of iron ore was started on 07.04.1968.

(b) NMDC Ltd. have started that the quantum of iron ore exported till 31.3.1998 is 143.36 million tonnes.

(c) Revenue earned by State Government of Madhya Pradesh by way of royalty till 31.3.1998 against deposits for which National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. was having mining leases in Bailadila area was Rs. 136.72 crores.

The income earned from this project alongwith the income from other projects of NMDC is being taken for payment of income-tax to Central Government at the corporate level by the PSU. No projectwise/unitwise income-tax to Central Government is paid. The cumulative income-tax paid upto 31.3.1998 was Rs. 257 crores.

NMDC have paid Rs. 168.13 crores as dividend to Government of India till March 1996-97. Dividends are paid out of the profits of NMDC, including these accruing from the Bailadila Project.

[English]

Officer and Engineers sent Abroad by NALCO

4291. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officer and engineers who have been sent abroad by NALCO at for training its cost since inception;

(b) the total amount spent on such training/visits; and

(c) the period after which these foreign-trained officers/engineers quit service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) 238 officers/engineers of NALCO were sent abroad for training in the period 1982-83 to 1997-98. Out of this 167 officers/engineers were deputed for training under the provisions of foreign collaboration agreement with Aluminium Pechiney, France.

(b) The information regarding total amount spent on training is available for the period 1993-94 to 1997-98 which is given below :

Year	No. of Officers/ Engineers sponsored for training	Total amount spent on such training/visit
1993-94	04	Rs. 703760/-
1994-95	21	Rs. 4056022/-
1995-96	25	Rs. 5214374/-
1996-97	05	Rs. 1166914/-
1997-98	08	Rs. 1985080/-
Total	63	Rs. 13126150/-

(c) Out of 238 officers/engineers sent for training abroad, 44 have left the company. Out of these 44, 1 person has expired, 2 have retired on superannuation and 2 persons have taken voluntary retirement, 39 persons have resigned whose details are as under :-

Period after which resigned after training	No. of Officers/ engineers
1-3 Years	13
4-6 Years	19
Above 6 Years	07
Total	39

Extension of Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma Railway Line

4292. SHRIMATI NISHA A. CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government for extension of Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma Railway line upto Abu Road in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scientific Research Programme

4293. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an Empowered Committee to approve Scientific Research Programmes; and

(b) if so, the details with objectives thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Empowered Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Steel with members from Department of Science & Technology, Planning Commission, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Main Producers of Steel, IIT Kharagpur, National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel, and others with a view to providing overall direction to the total research effort on Iron & Steel in the country and approve specific research projects placed before it.

The Empowered Committee will *inter alia* examine all aspects of Science & Technology in the Iron & Steel sector; Co-ordinate and monitor the on-going research programmes in the iron & steel sector; review the progress of Science & Technology programmes of national importance in the Iron & Steel industry periodically and advise Ministry of Steel on policies and programmes in developing domestic capabilities for Research & Development in the Iron & Steel sector.

Flight for Delhi-Rajkot Sector

4294. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any Plan to operate Indian Airlines flight between Delhi and Rajkot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The traffic potential on the sector Delhi-Rajkot is not adequate for operation of jet aircraft available in Indian Airlines/Alliance Air's fleet. Private

operators with suitable aircraft are being encouraged to add new stations including Rajkot in their network, subject to commercial viability.

Appointment of Chairman of AAI

4295. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Airports Authority of India is without a Chairman for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The post of Whole-time Chairman in the Airports Authority of India (AAI) became vacant on 14.10.1996 and the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation had been holding additional charge of the post till the appointment of the new Chairman. On the basis of the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board and with the approval of the competent authority Shri D.V. Gupta has been appointed as Chairman, AAI with effect from 06.07.1998.

Merger of HSCL and VISL with SAIL

4296. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI :
SHRI MANJUNATH AYANUR :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any Committee was formed by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the Committee has submitted its report; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government alongwith the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Government have decided to merge Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Limited (VISL) with Steel Authority of India Limited