

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes. The Andhra Pradesh Power Sector Restructuring Project (APSR) is being assisted by the World Bank through a series of Adaptable Lending Programme (APL) for a total support of US\$ 1 billion. The World Bank has recently approved the first adaptable programme loan of US\$ 210 million.

(c) The details of the loans which have been negotiated and not yet approved by the World Bank Board are:

Project	Amount (US\$ million)
1. Haryana State Highway Project	275
2. Gujarat State Highway Project	381
3. Power System Dev. Project-II	450
4. IREDA-II	135

(d) and (e) No. Does not arise.

Kurkunta Unit of CCI

694. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kurkunta unit of Cement Corporation of India in the undeveloped area of North Karnataka has stopped its production;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total amount of salary to be paid to the employees; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for its revival and for early payment of salary to the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Production at Kurkunta Unit of Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has been temporarily suspended with effect from 1.11.98 due to operations becoming unviable on account of various factors. The total amount of salary and wages to be paid to the employees for December, 98 and January, 99 is Rs. 64 lakhs approx.

(c) CCI is a sick company and BIFR has already circulated a Draft Rehabilitation Scheme for the company which, *inter alia*, includes capital expenditure for revival of Kurkunta Plant. CCI has been facing liquidity problems which has led to delay in timely payment of salary and wages to the employees. Salary payment will be expedited by the Company as soon as the liquidity position improves.

Financial Assistance to Rubber Growers of Kerala

695. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for financial assistance from the Union Government for helping the rubber growers;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated by the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Losses in SAIL

696. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has suffered a net loss of Rs. 273.29 crore in the third quarter of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enable SAIL to earn profits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has suffered a net loss of Rs. 273.29 crores in the third quarter of current financial year.

(b) Main reasons for decline in profits include sluggish demand for steel, greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices and enhancement in supplies in the domestic market resulting in decline in