

(a) the number of accidents occurred after and during modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant and the reasons of the accidents;

(b) whether due to low quality of work in modernisation the accidents are taking place frequently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government have taken any action against the officers/contractor/union leaders/politicians, who are responsible for low quality work in the modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Number of accidents after and during modernisation only in Rourkela Steel Plant are as under :

1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 (till date)
09	09	14	19	28	11	05	01	01

The reasons for higher number of accidents prior to 1996 are system failure in construction and operations during modernisation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Does not arise.

### Tax Free Bonds

3880. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to allow Municipal agencies to float tax free bonds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the manner in which the money will be utilised by the Municipal Agencies; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check that the money is utilised properly for which it is collected through bonds?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This will enable Municipal agencies to raise low-interest funds for providing essential services.

(c) and (d) The guidelines for issue of Tax Free Municipal bonds are being formulated.

### Prices of Coffee

3881. SHRI A. VANKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of Indian coffee has fallen considerably in the international market;

(b) if so, whether farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produces as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether the traders have failed to maintain marketing for Indian coffee in the International market;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The prices of Robusta in London Exchange is at par with the average Indian prices. However, the prices quoted for Indian Arabicas in New York Exchange is about 15 cents per pound below the average Indian prices.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Instead, the Indian exporters have done well as the quantity of coffee exported from India has risen considerably over the years.

(e) To improve quality standards both at farm and curer level, the Government of India through Coffee Board has been implementing a Small Sector Development Scheme which provides subsidy for setting up estate infrastructure viz. pulpers, washers, drying yards and store houses. The Board is also imparting training to the growers, processors and exporters on various aspects of coffee on regular basis. The Board has hosted visits of two teams of Speciality Coffee Association of America to India and organised interaction with coffee growers, traders and exporters of Indian coffee to give them first hand knowledge about the finer aspects of Indian coffee besides participating in important trade fairs in targeted countries and Speciality Coffee Conference in USA. The Board has also taken initiative for evolving a coffee logo and certification of curing works and exporters. Further, the Board also proposes to organise an International Coffee Conference involving the major roasters of targeted coffee importing countries in the year 2000 A.D.

[Translation]

### Golden Jubilee of Official Language

3882. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted in his Ministry to celebrate the golden jubilee of the official language, Hindi; and

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be constituted and the plans to celebrate it?