

blaming you. But we also have right to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you are passing remarks, sitting like that, it is not in consonance with the dignity of the House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not speaking. The Members are speaking. Please sit down. I do not appreciate. I am not talking. You are talking.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jakhhar Saheb has a great zeal and passion for doing something for the farmers. All over the world, especially in India the terms of trade have gone against farmers interest. So, I would like to know from him whether he will take care of the wishes and aspirations of farmers while formulating the agriculture policy.

Secondly, Shri Starad Yadav raised an important question in regard to Jute. In this context, I would like to say that jute is produced in large quantity in Orissa, particularly in the my constituency Kendrapara. But its prices have come down to Rs. 250 from Rs. 800. I would like to request again that being the hon. Minister of Agriculture he should take care the farmer's interests. Would the Government of India pressurise the J.C.I. to procure the jute from the farmers at the last year's prices so that the farmers are benefited.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Rabi Ray is very much correct in saying that the difficulties of the jute-growers must be removed. In this regard, I would contact the Minister of Textiles.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: You have not fixed even its support price.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That will also be done.

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: My question No. 323 is regarding this policy also. I want to know from the hon. Minister categorically what was the recommendation of Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee on production of betal leaves in our State. Orissa is a major producing State of Betal leaves where the annual turn over is more than rupees one thousand crores.

I would like to know what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken for the development of betal leaves and for its export and other things.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will give him the exact recommendations. His question is listed as 19th in the list today. But I can assure him that we take a keen interest in the development of *betal* leaves because they are quite good exporter now. Rs. 180 crores worth of *betal* leaves are exported. There is quite a possibility of using it in future in tooth paste and other things. Yesterday, I have got this information that this *betal* leaves can be used for anti-blotic and something like that. It is going to be very productive and remunerative for the farmers. I have asked my scientists also to give thrust to its production because it is affected by some disease which causes a lot of harm to the leaves. To generate more production and to give more thrust to the *betal* leave growing, we will do something. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to discuss the economic situation in the country and while discussing the economic situation the Members would be entitled to discuss the agricultural policy and agricultural prices also. We have given more than Half-an-hour to this question. So I am going to next question.

#### Losses in DMS

\*305. SHRI CHETAN P.S.  
CHAUHAN:  
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA  
KUMARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme is incurring losses regularly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The losses are primarily on account of the low sale price of liquid milk supplied by Delhi Milk Scheme.

(c) The steps include optimum utilization of capacity, low per unit consumption of utilities and consumables, improvement in operational efficiency and periodical revision of sale price of milk and milk products.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: The leakage of poly packets of milk is a big problem being faced by the Delhi Milk Scheme. This is two per cent of the total production of five lakh litres per day and the value is Rs. 50,000. Annually the loss works out to Rs. 1.82 crores. What steps have been taken to prevent leakage of poly packets?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: The DMS is taking constant effort to check leakage in poly packets. Recently we have reduced that cost of poly packets to 20 per cent. After reducing that, we are also examining other alternatives of the packages of the milk so that there is no leakage.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: It is reliably learnt that the staff tamper with the seal let the milk leak into the crates and when possible add water. Often a pinprick is enough to make the milk squirt out. The leaked milk is then sold to *halwais dhaba* owners, tea stalls and *jhuggi dewelles*.

To avoid this, is the DMS thinking of hiring private transport for deliveries like Mother Dairy. This was earlier shelved because of union pressure.

MR. SPEAKER: You shall have to ask the question and not to read it.

SHRICHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Is the DMS still thinking of utilising private transporters?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: The question was about the losses in DMS. DMS is procuring milk from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh covering a long distance. In that case also, we are considering to utilise the services of the private transport for this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know that when the DMS raised prices last time and the percentage by which these were raised as also the loss suffered by DMS before and after the revision of prices. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This questions is about statistics. It can be sent to you later on. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, DMS is suffering loss because of inefficiency and corruption as pointed out by Shri Chauhan. That is why prices are raised again and again to make good the loss. So, I would like to know whether any Inquiry Committee comprising of the Members of this House will be constituted to go into the causes of such losses and to suggest measures to remove those causes so that prices are not increased time and again?

[*English*]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: The main reasons for the losses of the DMS is that the selling price of the Milk of DMS has been fixed lower than the cost of production. The cost of production of DMS milk comes to about Rs. 7.75 per litre whereas we are selling it at Rs. 5/- per litre and we are losing Rs. 2.75 per litre. So, this is the reason for the losses. We have not increased the selling price for the last one year. (*Interruptions*)

For the last one years, they are selling at this rate. As far as the losses are concerned, in 1988-89, the loss was to the tune of Rs. 18.88 crores; in 1989-90 it was Rs. 16.51 crores; in 1991-92 it was Rs. 15.38 crores and this year, up to October it has been estimated tentatively that the loss would be of the order of Rs.23 crores.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up Question 307. Question 306 has been postponed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why?

MR. SPEAKER: There are many rules. If you do not know the rules, you find out the rules. If the Member wants, it is postponed.

#### Modernisation of Hindustan Copper Ltd.

\*307. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give additional financial powers to the Hindustan Copper Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether HCL is now in a position to expand its capacity; and

(d) if so, the details of the expansion and modernisation schemes of HCL during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Government have delegated enhanced powers to the Board of Directors of Public Enterprises signing Memorandum of Understanding with the Govt. and having gross block of over Rs. 200 crores, to sanction capital expenditure,

provided funds can be found from the internal resources of the Company and the expenditure is incurred either on items included in the capital budget approved by the Govt. or if outlays are provided in the Annual Plan. HCL having fulfilled these requirements has become eligible to exercise the enhanced financial powers to incur expenditure on additions, modifications and new investments from the existing limit of Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 50 crores and on replacement and renewal of assets from the existing limit of Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 100 crores.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. HCL has identified a number of schemes for expanding its capacity to be partially financed through its own resources and partially through budgetary support. The important schemes for expansion and modernisation proposed by HCL during the VIIIth Plan subject to the availability of funds, are:-

#### I. Western Sector (Rajasthan)

- i. Khetri smelter and refinery expansion from 31,000 to 45,000 tonnes per year.
- ii. Kolihan mine expansion from 0.6 to 0.75 million tonnes of ore per year.
- iii. Development of Banwas mine of 0.6 million tonnes of ore per year.
- iv. Modernisation of the Khetri concentrator.

#### II. Central Sector (Madhya Pradesh)

Expansion of Malanjkhand mine from 2 to 3 million tonnes of ore per year.

#### III. Eastern Sector (Bihar)

- i. Development of Chapri-Sideshwar mine of 0.75 million tonnes capacity with a