

Cost Reduction Measures by SAIL

1912. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the SAIL have initiated cost reduction measures to overcome its financial burden and to mobilise additional resources for modernisation of its plants;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the SAIL propose to enter joint ventures with MNCs to bring down losses of such plants; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Since 1997-98, SAIL had put greater thrust on cost control by bringing operational efficiency and reducing administrative expenses, resulting in saving of about Rs. 700 crores in 1997-98 in areas like use of coking coal, stores and spares, power and fuel, improvement in techno-economic and productivity parameters and administrative expenses etc. Plans have been drawn for further cost saving during 1998-99.

(c) and (d) SAIL plans to formulate subsidiary companies/joint ventures for non-core areas. However, this is in preliminary stage.

Airport Projects by Private Airlines

1913. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private airlines have applied to set up their airport projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of such private airlines alongwith the airports they propose to construct and aircrafts they propose to introduce and the routes identified?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Self-Employment Scheme

1914. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the self-employment schemes are financed by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details regarding participation and responsibility of local Members of Parliament in implementation of the schemes by the District Rural Development Agency;

(c) the details of the major works and objectives and the nature of implementation of the said schemes; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government for effecting control over its implementation, maintaining its accounts and conducting a review of the progress of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Self Employment programmes of this Ministry viz., Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) are financed by the Union and State Government on a 50:50 sharing basis. Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) is another self employment programme which is funded entirely by Central Government to the tune of 90% of the costs of toolkits, the beneficiary contributing 10%.

(b) The self employment programmes of IRDP, DWCRA, TRYSEM and SITRA are implemented at district level by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). The Members of Parliament are the members of the Governing Body of the DRDAs, which is charged with the responsibility of Planning, Monitoring, and Supervision of the schemes. Instructions also exist for constitution of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at District and Block level in which Member of Parliament is one of the members.

(c) IRDP aims at providing productive assets to the rural poor in the shape of term credit from the financial institutions and Government subsidy for the sustainable income generation. DWCRA is a sub-scheme of IRDP, under which rural poor women are organized into self-help groups to undertake income generating activity. One time grant in the form of revolving fund is provided for such groups. TRYSEM aims at providing basic technical and entrepreneurial skills to the rural poor youth to enable them to take up self/wage employment. The objective of SITRA is to enable rural artisans to enhance the quality of their products, increase their production and income with the use of improved tools.

The financial achievement under self employment programmes for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows: