

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:

S. No.	Prog-rammes	(Rs. in Lakhs)			
		1996-97		1997-98	
		Alloca-tion	Expendi-ture	Alloca-tion	Expendi-ture
1.	IRDP	109721.16	113949.28	113351.23	110954.01*
2.	DWCRA	6500.00	5696.00	6500.00	4145.43
3.	TRYSEM	9025.00	10027.01	9025.00	8074.14
4.	SITRA	4000.00	3602.00	3500.00	3427.00

*Provisional

(d) Self Employment programmes are being monitored from the Central level down to grass root level. At the State level, a State Level Coordination Committee monitors the programme. At the Central level, the Central Level Co-ordination Committee monitors and reviews the implementation of the scheme and lays down policy guidelines. A High Level Co-ordination Committee on credit support to IRDP also functions at the Central level to monitor and review all aspects relating to credit linkage for IRDP. The progress under IRDP is being monitored on a monthly, quarterly, half yearly and annual basis through reports and returns submitted by DRDAs/States. Accounts for the self employment schemes are properly maintained and duly audited. Under the Area Officer's Scheme, the officers of this Ministry undertake periodical visit to the States for on the spot monitoring of the implementation the programme and take corrective measures, if any. The Ministry undertakes regular Concurrent Evaluation Surveys and impact studies to assess the strengths and the weaknesses of the Programme and to take corrective action thereon.

[English]

Modernisation of Integral Coach Factory at Chennai

1915. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai had requested for a grant of Rs. 100 crore for the modernisation of their existing old plants; and

(b) if so, the quantum of amount given to ICF modernisation during each of the last three years and current financial year?

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. However a modernisation project was sanctioned for ICF in 1984-85 which was completed on 31-3-1994 at a total cost of Rs. 67.90 crores out of which Rs. 54.45 crores were spent on procurement of Machinery and Plant items.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Sale of Railway Tickets

1916. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted various teams in each zone to check the unauthorised ticket reservation by unlicensed travel agents/agencies particularly in the Allahabad division of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of raids conducted in each zone during the last six months, zone-wise;

(d) the details of the illegal items seized therefrom particularly in Allahabad division; and

(e) the action taken against them?

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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Doubling of Railway Lines

1917. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether doubling of rail line between Kapilash Road and Barang in East Coast Zone in Orissa is under progress;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for this project during the current financial year;

(c) the amount sanctioned specifically for the construction of railway bridges over river Birupa, Mahanadi and Kathjori for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF