

banks for necessary action. As per these instructions, cells were to be set up in each attached/subordinate offices to ensure due compliance of the orders of reservations issued from time to time in favour of SC/ST employees and to scrutinise the statistical data in respect of the attached and subordinate offices required to be furnished to the Ministry/Department proper. The functions of the cell were to assist the Liaison Officer in discharge of his duties effectively. The strength of the cell was to depend on the work load.

State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur has reported that it has an SC/ST cell at Head Office. At the Zonal/Regional offices, the Regional Managers have been entrusted with the duties of Liaison Officers. Since the entire work of recruitment/promotion is done at the Head Office, the task of overseeing the implementation of reservation policies and looking into the grievances of SC/ST employees has been entrusted to the SC/ST cell at the Head Office only.

Price and Cost of Production of Steel

*706. SHRIBABUBHAIMEGHJISHAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the fluctuation in the prices of saleable steel during the Seventh Plan period with year-wise break-up;

(b) the total production of saleable steel and its sale by public sector steel plants during the above period with year-wise break-up;

(c) whether Government propose to set-up a panel to study the reasons for high cost of production of saleable steel in public sector steel plants in comparison to private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Open market prices of iron and steel fluctuate on the basis of demand and supply and levels of JPC prices from time to time. However, the JPC prices for main producers are increased by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) from time to time to neutralise the increases in input costs and other levies. The major average increases in JPC prices in the Seventh Plan have been as follows:—

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| *24.12.1987 | 15.6% |
| 08.01.1989 | 7.6% |
| 01.03.1989 | 2.1% |
| 02.06.1989 | 1.5% |

* During the period 1.4.85 to 24.12.87 (2 years, 9 months) there had been no increase in steel prices by JPC.

(b) Production of saleable steel and sales by public sector steel plants is given

below:—

('000 tonnes)

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Production £</i> | <i>Sales (Including exports)</i> |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> |
| 1985-86 | 6004 | 5477 |
| 1986-87 | 6312 | 5550 |
| 1987-88 | 6675 | 6137 |
| 1988-89 | 7261 | 6619 |
| 1989-90 (P) | 7063 | 6286 |

(P) — Provisional.

£ — Including inter plant transfers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Coffee Industry

*707. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:
SHRIYASHWANTRAOPATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian coffee industry is passing through a crisis due to increased production and unsatisfactory growth in consumption;

(b) if so, the details of the problems faced by the coffee industry; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/proposed to take to provide relief to coffee industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-

ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). The Coffee Industry was confronted with a difficult situation last year. This was because international coffee prices had crashed on account of the failure of the International Coffee Agreement in July, 1989. On the other hand, with a record crop of about 2.14 lakh tonnes, there was an all-time high marketable surplus of coffee with the Coffee Board during 1989-90.

The exports of coffee during 1989-90 are estimated to be 1,30,172 tonnes, valued at Rs. 351.80 crores, as compared to 98,256 tonnes with a value realisation of Rs. 337.68 crores during 1988-89. The internal consumption of coffee also increased to 63,380 tonnes during 1989, as against 58,000 tonnes during 1988.

The Coffee Board has thus been able to dispose of almost all the marketable quantity of coffee last year.

(c) Some of the recent steps taken by Government to provide relief to the coffee industry include: