

I know from the hon. Minister what was the production of 10—50 mm size BF iron ore per man-day in Khondekesa and Mayurpani mines before and after October, 1980 and June, 1981? and what is the production cost of both the grades?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** The figure of production cost of 150 mm in the Khondekesa and Mayurpani mines is not with me. I will collect the figure and I will give.

**SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** My first question is answered in parts (c) and (d):

“However, this has been compensated by increased productivity in Khondekesa and Mayurpani mines where the size is higher with the production norm of 5 tonnes per man-day”.

It is clear that this production has just gone down 50 per cent from 2.1 tonnes to 1.6 tonnes. But the difference in the higher grade is not mentioned.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** As regards higher grade, I have mentioned that it is 150 mm. If the actual production from these two mines is wanted, the figures are not available with me. I have already indicated the grade.

**SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** My first question has not been properly answered. My second supplementary is what is the total requirement of Bhilai Steel Plant? As the Minister has stated, the Dalli-Rajhara Complex has been planned to meet the requirement of Bhilai Steel Plant. May I know from the Hon. Minister what is the total requirement of Bhilai Steel Plant per month and what is the total production of Iron Ore Grade from the Dalli-Rajhara Complex?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** The figure is not with me. But the

total annual figures of requirement are:

1978-79	4,890,000 tonnes.
1979-80	4,900,000 tonnes.
1980-81	4,750,000 tonnes.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** The Minister has stated that the grade of iron ore has been reduced from 12 mm-80mm size to 10—50mm size. May I know if the design parameter of that particular steel plant had to be changed after changing from 10 to 50 mm.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** I have already indicated in Part (b) of the answer and actually in Parts (c) and (d) also, I have mentioned that actual production per man-day has gone down from 2.1 to 1.6 tonnes.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** I am asking about the blast furnace.

**Proposal for taking over M/s. Lipton India**

\*400. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Lipton India Limited has become a sick company due to deliberate designs of the parent company Uni-Lever;

(b) whether Brooke Bond India Limited has made great progress during the same period; and

(c) if so, whether in the aforesaid circumstances the Government propose to take over the management of Lipton India Limited to save the workers from their doom?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):**  
(a) Government have no information on this.

(b) It is not possible to compare the two organisations as Brooke Bond

is dealing with commodities other than tea also, while Lipton India is engaged only in packaging and trading of tea.

(c) Does not arise.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** From the days of our childhood, we know only two companies. One is Lipton and the other is Brooke Bond. This Lipton company has been in the tea business in India for about 80 years and their whole history is the history of prosperity and progress and remittances of large profits to the United Kingdom. Before it became an Indian company in 1978, they were always making very exceptionally good profits. In 1978—I hope that hon. Minister will confirm this whether it is a fact that in 1978 this company became Liptons India Limited or in 1974—it has been taken over by Hindustan Lever. The question I would like to ask is since he presides over the fortunes of the tea industry in this country, whether he has taken note of the fact that this company even up to 1978-79 had shown a profit of Rs. 195 lakhs and suddenly in the next year, 1979-80, it has declared a loss of Rs. 99 lakhs and if that is a fact, whether his Department has at all tried to find out how suddenly this very profitable company has now, after Indianisation and after being taken over by Uni-Lever, begun to show losses every year, what is it due to.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN):** You can say that. I will certainly look into it.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** That is why, perhaps, the hon. Member's idea is that it should be answered by the Department of Company Affairs. According to the information we have got from them, in one year they incurred a loss, but when we tried to ascertain in reply to part (a) of the hon. Member's question, whether we could take it over, they

say that it does not come within the purview of sick unit. The Finance Minister has already said that, on the basis of the information which the hon. Member has supplied, he will look into it.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Normally, we all know very well, the company's Balance Sheet.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Sometimes it abnormally happens. What do you do then?

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** It is something abnormal here. Instead of giving in the Annual Statement of Accounts or in the Balance Sheet which is the normal practice, does he know that this Company suddenly, through a press announcement, announced—they gave a press statement—that during the period of six months, that is from July 1980 to December 1980, they have suffered a loss of Rs. 2.65 crores? What was the necessity of suddenly giving this announcement relating it only to six months? This is not the normal practice. I would like to know whether he will look into the matter, whether the Company is trying to create a sort of atmosphere of uncertainty and panic among the Indian shareholders and whether he is also aware of the fact that they have changed their whole system of trading, that, instead of the old system of having their own stockist, they have now started employing middle men, contractors, and the packaging of tea is being done no longer in their factories in Calcutta and Madras but is being commissioned out to contractors. Therefore, Sir, I would like to ask whether, in good time, he will look into the affairs of the Company before they declare it to be sick after some time and then force you to inject more public funds into that Company. Will you take timely action?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** This will be looked into by the De-

partment of Company Affairs. Definitely I will pass on this information to them because, as the hon. Member has said, this is not the normal practice; normally they indicate their health either in the Balance Sheet or in the Statement of Chairman at the Annual General Meeting. Why they are doing it like this at the interval of six months is to be ascertained.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** May I know whether it is a fact that, in view of the sickness in various industries in the country, a Cabinet Sub-Committee has been formed and if so, what are the recommendations of that Cabinet Sub-Committee?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** I cannot disclose the recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee here.

#### Recruitment of Agricultural Graduates by State Bank Group

\*401. **SHRI P. NAMGYAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural graduates are recruited by the State Bank Group of nationalised banks as Technical Officers (Agriculture) for implementation of agricultural financing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the State Banks these officers are posted/promoted in a new cadre known as "Rural Development Officer" but in the Associate Banks of State Bank of India they are not given this benefit of Rural Development Officers and instead untrained and general cadre officers are entrusted to work as Rural Development Officers; and

(c) if reply to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for

the disparity and the steps proposed to be taken to remove the disparity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the State Bank of India, in the Associate Banks such officials continue to be designated as Technical Officers (Agriculture). In the State Bank of India also the practice till early 1979, was to recruit Agricultural Graduates as Technical Officers (Agriculture) to provide support to decision-making functionaries at various levels. They assessed techno-economic soundness of credit schemes and also extended technical guidance to farming clientele. Other duties connected with Agricultural Banking business, i.e. of a non-technical nature, were looked after by the general cadre of Bank officers i.e. Agricultural Field Officers. It was, however, observed that this led to overlapping of functions. Hence, it was decided that the entire gamut of field duties would be performed by the Technical Officers. The cadre was re-designated as Rural Development Officers cadre. The switch over to the new cadre was, however, to be in a phased manner over a period of time.

(c) The State Bank has reported that the question of introduction of a similar scheme of Rural Development Cadre in the Associate Banks is presently engaging its attention.

**SHRI P. NAMGYAL:** I want to know whether it is a fact that the Santhanam Committee has recommended that all the agricultural financing should be entrusted to these technical officers and then their cadre should be upgraded as Rural Development Officers. Accordingly, the State Bank of India have already implemented this recommendation but the Associate Banks of the State Bank of India have not implemented this recommendation. Specifically I would like to have the assurance