

Corporation of India has incurred a loss of Rs. 302.30 lakhs in the year 1969-70, as against a profit of Rs. 40.46 lakhs in the year 1968-69 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons behind this shortfall of Rs. 342.76 lakhs within one year of production ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shortfall was due to a number of causes as indicated below :--

- (i) Shortfall in production resulting in lower contribution to fixed expenses.
- (ii) Increase in the price of DAP, Potash, Sulphur, Packing materials, Bags and Electricity rates and other items of materials and their consumption.
- (iii) Shortage of finished stock of Urea and complex Fertilizers.
- (iv) Increased expenditure under repairs and maintenance, freight and handling and other fixed expenditure.
- (v) Past period adjustments like increase in price of Naphtha, adjustment of material issued etc.

Statement made by U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees regarding situation in Bangla Desh

*1075. **SHRI N. N. PANDEY :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Sadruddin, has given his assessment as appeared in various papers that the condition of Bangla Desh is returning to normal ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Indian Government to refute this ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) According to subsequent press reports, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has denied

having said anything about conditions in East Bengal returning to normal.

(b) The fact that refugees continue to arrive in India and the total, as on the 8th July, 1971, ss 67,33,019, is convincing proof of the fact that the situation in East Bengal is far from normal.

Sinking of Indian Naval Ship

*1076. **SHRI A. N. CHAWLA :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a naval ship having a complement of 3 officers and 30 sailors sank on the 19th June, 1971 about 250 miles east of Madras ;

(b) if so, whether the causes of the accident have been ascertained ; and

(c) whether any of the persons have survived and if so, the number thereof and whether any compensation has been given to the families of the deceased ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) to (c). INS AJIT sank about 250 miles east of Madras at about 4 P. M. on the 19th June, 1971 when she was being towed by INS MAGAR from Port Blair to Vishakhapatnam via Madras. There were 3 officers, 25 sailors and 1 civilian on board. Rescue operations were carried out by 3 Naval Ships and 1 Air Force Dakota, and 18 survivors (1 officer and 17 sailors) were picked up. 11 persons (2 officers, 8 sailors and 1 civilian) are presumed dead by drowning. The question of paying appropriate pension to the families of the deceased is under examination. A Board of Inquiry is investigating the circumstances in which the tragedy occurred.

Legion of Merit Award to Chief of the Air Staff

*1077. **SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air Chief Marshal P. C. Lal, Chief of the Air Staff, has been awarded the Legion of Merit by the Government of U.S.A. ;