

Loss incurred by Hindustan Steel Ltd.

*110. SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY :
SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the loss incurred by Hindustan Steel Limited during 1969-70 and 1970-71 ;

(b) the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to improve the working of Hindustan Steel Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) :

(a) Hindustan Steel Limited incurred a loss of Rs. 104.73 million in 1969-70. The accounts for the year 1970-71 are being compiled and the position would be known only after the accounts for this year are closed and audited. The present indications, however, are that the Company would incur a loss during 1970-71 also, which might be more or less of the same order as in the preceding year.

(b) The loss is primarily due to production during 1970-71 being lower than that in 1969-70 in the Durgapur Rourkela Steel Plants, which, in turn, was due partly to disturbed industrial relations throughout the year in Durgapur and during the first half of the year in Rourkela. There were also certain technical and operational constraints/deficiencies at these Plants.

(c) Within the limitations imposed by the industrial relations situation, the Management of Hindustan Steel Limited is concentrating on all possible efforts to raise production to rated capacity levels as rapidly as possible. These include improved maintenance of plant and equipment, procurement of spares, refractories, locos and other essential materials, speeding up of capital programmes required to correct imbalances in production facilities, introduction of technological improvements, etc.

Development of Basic Forest Resources for Industrial Requirements

*111. SHRI TEJA SINGH SWATANTRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether any plan has been drawn up for the development of basic forest resources supplying industrial requirements ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. A Centrally-sponsored scheme 'Plantation of quick-growing Species' was specially introduced during the Third Plan period aiming at plantation of fast growing species such as Eucalyptus, Bamboos, etc., to meet the growing demand of raw materials for the forest based industries particularly pulp and paper. The scheme was introduced with the object of creating an industrial bias in the country, to meet the rapidly growing requirements of these industries.

2,58,460 hectares were planted up with these species during 1961-62 to 1968-69. This scheme is now in the State Sector and accordingly State Forest Departments propose to raise 3,02,000 hectares during the current Five Year Plan. In 1969-70 and 1970-71, about 97,000 hectares have been planted up with fast-growing species.

The scheme on 'Raising of Economic Plantations of Industrial and Commercial Uses' in the State Sector also provides for raising of the economic species suitable for forest-based industries such as panel-woods, matches, etc.

6,12,300 hectares of Economic Plantations were raised during 1961-62 to 1968-69 and 3,39,170 hectares will be covered during Fourth Plan period under this scheme. During 1969-70 and-1970-71 about 1,07,580 hectares have been planted.