

fields will be united into one coal field with Headquarters in Orissa ?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Sir, too many questions at one go. I am not aware of the exact amount at present. I will give the figures to the Hon. Member of the French credit involved. But I can say one thing I said that Rs. 22 crores in 1985-86, but the total amount which we have earmarked for the Seventh Five Year Plan in Orissa alone is Rs. 200 crores and above. Therefore, the Government is anxious and is eager to exploit the rich reserve of coal in Orissa.

I agree with the Hon. Member that the coal deposits in Orissa are economically viable because of the ratio of over burden to coal.

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO :** Sir, the statement laid on the table of the House by the Hon. Minister speaks about long-term measures. What about short-term measures? In Orissa, the Talcher coal has a high ash content. The boilers were so designed by USA to suit this type of coal. The boilers are there in fact Utkali. What we require is E.S.P. (Electro Static Precipitators) which can remove the waste and abrasives. What step the Government has taken as this Ministry is in charge of the administration of Coal Mine Conservation and Development Act? What action has this Ministry taken for the last ten years and what are they going to do now to help the OSEB to improve the power generation because we are thinking of putting up a super thermal power station. Are you going to carry coal to local stations? You are only taking a mother-in-law attitude. That is my complaint Sir.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** We are not taking mother-in-law attitude, we are taking mother attitude. That will be seen from the fact that I have myself visited Talcher and I saw the OSEB Power Station and their problem. The problem is not only about the boiler and the precipitator, but also about the conveyor there.

*(Interruptions)*

A good mother-in-law excepted.

Sir, what we have done is at we have advised the Orissa Government. The cost of replacing the conveyor belt will not be very high. That will immediately make

possible for the conveyor to carry more coal and have better utilisation of the power house. We can only give advice. Whatever assistance we can give as far as coal is concerned, as we have assured them that we will see that proper coal is made available to them. What more you want us to do for them ?

*(Interruptions)*

**Losses suffered by Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited**

\*266. **SHRI K. S. RAO :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the losses suffered by Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited as on the 30th June, 1985;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give away this Corporation to private management; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what is the present position ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :** (a) Accumulated losses till 1983-84 were of the order of Rs. 80 crores. The accounts for 1984-85 and beyond have not been finalised so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**SHRI K. S. RAO :** The intention of the Government to-day is production-oriented. In case of these companies where is no dearth of technical knowledge or competency, where is the need for continuing these construction companies which are adding to the burden of the Exchequer every year and year after year? Apart from the loss, they are also not getting any income by way of income tax or any other income to the Government. So I just want to know from the hon. Minister if there is any proposal with the Ministry to find out such companies which are causing heavy losses every year either to wind them up or to find out the ways to reduce the losses.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** The width and range of the supplementary is quite staggering. I can only answer with regard to the Ministry of Steel. Naturally Government

is very concerned that HSCL is running at a heavy loss. What other Ministries are doing. I cannot say. We know the reasons why a particular company is running in loss. We will try to find out how to minimise these losses. Every possible and viable alternative is being looked at.

**SHRI K. S. RAO :** In continuation of this, I can understand if this company were to take up the work on its own accord by employing the labourers directly. But after taking up the work, this company has once again resorted to giving it on sub-contract by which we are employing other contractors who would have otherwise tendered for the contract and by which we would have suffered 10 to 15 per cent of the total value of the contract. There is no point in sitting quiet even for a little time and in continuing this process and causing this loss continuously. The Government must find out ways particularly in view of the assurances given by the Prime Minister that we are immediately thinking of those public undertakings which are causing heavy losses to find out and take measures immediately.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** This is an expression of hope which I share.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA :** May I ask the hon. Minister.....

**MR. SPEAKER :** I did not allow Prof. Ranga. He has to come through me.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA :** What is it you have ordered—I do not understand.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** He has ordered for order in the House.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Through proper channel, Sir.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** If you like, I can serve as a channel for repeating that question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You can do it... Allowed.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** The hon. Minister has replied in the negative to part (b) of the question, *i.e.* 'whether there is any proposal to give away this Corporation to private management.' Well, we must be thankful for small mercies. But I would like to know from him—because it has appeared quite prominently in various press reports—

if the Government is considering to shut down or dismantle this organisation altogether which, of course, would also lead large-scale unemployment of about 20,000 people. I would like to know from him whether it is a fact or not that one difficulty has been that when this construction force which is mainly based at Bokaro, as he said, has been sought to be utilised in the construction of new steel plants in other parts of the country, for example, in Vizag...

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Also for expansion in Bhilai.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Bhilai was much earlier. There has been lot of local resistance to the employment of these people on the ground that local labour should be used and these people should not be brought. I want to know whether it is a fact and also whether they have received any memorandum from the Engineers' Association of this Company who have sought to diagnose why this Company has been making losses and suggested some remedies for it. They also pointed out that there is too much excessive use of contracting and sub-contracting which always led to losses. Is he aware of the proposals made by the Engineers' Association of this Company?

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** Sir, I have not seen this particular proposal from the Engineers' Association. With regard to the earlier observation of the hon. Member that there is resistance to workers of the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. going from Bokaro that is quite true. As a matter of fact the feeling in other states is quite strong. As he will recollect in 1977 when certain workers were asked to go from Bokaro to Bhilai there was very strong agitation even when the number was only six hundred. A formula was worked out between the then Prime Minister, Shri Desai, Mr. Patnaik and Shri Saklecha that for every one local person transferred from Bekaro three local would be taken. But this did not solve our problem. The problem that we are now facing is that the construction work in all these plants has been completed and yet this surplus labour force remains with us.

As regards the speculation whether the company is going to be taken over by a private concern, I would like to say that

there is no proposal with the Government in this regard. I might add that no private company is dively to take on a labour force of 23,000. In organisations like National Building Construction Corporation and National Projects Construction Corporation they have their own arrangements. HSCL is the only Organisations which carries its work force and that work force is stationary. That is our problem. The losses of this company are about Rs. 100 crores. Part of due them are to the external works in Iraw, Libya and the Maldives. In the Maldives we made a modest profit. In Libya the loss is larger. Total of Libya and Iraq is about 29 crores. Except at Vizag there is no other plant being built. Therefore, the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. which was started in 1964 in order to stop private exploitation by the constructors having done its work upto 1977-78 is continuously running at a loss. We are trying to find out (a) how not to retrench any people; (b) how to ensure that unemployment does not increase; (c) how the company does not incur any losses. This is the dilemma and honestly there is no easy solution for this.

**SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** I would like to know from the hon. Minister since I am very much involved in this company so far as labour is concerned whether it is a fact that a large number of the tribal workers from Bokaro, Dhanbad and Purlia in the initial stage who were in this Company ultimately become a large surplus force and they gave a concrete proposal for their absorption in Bokaro Steel Plant, in IISCO and any other steel plant so that within four years the work force will get stability to maintain economy in balanced shape. Whether it is a fact that inspite of this proposal being there it has not been looked into and carried out by the Ministry. If so, then will they look into it? That is my precise point.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** About this proposal I shall certainly try and find out and satisfy the hon. Member. But I just want to mention that on account of surplus labour the Cumulative loss that the company has incurred is to the tune of Rs. 43 crores. The surplus manpower has been aggravating the financial problem of the company and since 1979-80 to 1984-85, this surplus has caused a loss of about Rs. 43 crores.

**MR. SPEAKER :** But you have recruited them and then you retrench them. Why should they be at first be employed and then retrenched?

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** They were employed because they were required for the civil construction and plants installation and have remained with company even since.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next Question—267—Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat. She is not here. Next question—269.

[Translation]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. speaker, Sir, what happened of my Question No. 268?

[English]

**MR. SPEAKER :** Your question No. 268 has been postponed to 19th. Next Question 269—Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty.

#### Seizure of Gold and Textile by Custom Authorities

\*269. **SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total worth of sold and textile seized by customs during the preceding three years;

(b) whether the sources namely countries from which such smuggling is taking place have been identified;

(c) whether any preventive measures have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) how many smugglers have been arrested and prosecuted during the year 1984-85 and whether any of them is detained under National Security Act?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** (a) to (d). A statement is given blow.

#### Statement

(a) The value of gold and textiles seized by the Customs authorities during the years 1982, 1983, 1984 is furnished below :