

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) It is estimated that the country has a potential of about 650 million tonnes of rural compost under favourable conditions. On the basis of available information, about 235 million tonnes of rural compost were actually used as manure during 1985-86.

(b) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to launch comprehensive programme for larger and better utilisation of rural organic wastes as manures.

(c) Compost, being bulky and low in nutrient content, is not a substitute for chemical fertilisers, which are essential for higher productivity through high yielding varieties and intensive cropping. Therefore, the question of reducing the import of chemical fertilisers does not arise.

SHRI MANIK REDDY: What steps is the Government going to take for the increase of rural compost and green manures? What are the ingredients in it?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There are schemes for the increase of the compost in the country and earlier it was with the Central Government. But now it has been transferred to the State Government and the Department of Non-Conventional Energy. These schemes are meant for the increase of the compost in the country. So far as nutrient content is concerned, there are a number of compost. In rural compost the nutrient value is 0.75N, 0.5P and 0.5K. There is a long list. I shall lay it on the Table of the House so that the hon. Member can know it.

SHRI MANIK REDDY: How much quantity is used for biogas and how much is burnt away as domestic fuel? Have the

Government any plan to stop this being burnt away?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: At present production and utilisation of this compost is 241.7 million tonnes, 235 million tonnes from rural and 6.7 million tonnes from the urban areas.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: It is approximate.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is approximate. This is being used. It is assessed on the population of cattle in the country, buffalo, etc. in the country. This is the potential which is used. It is the actual production end use. Potential is much more.

Losses of Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta

*185. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the losses of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta have been continuously rising over the years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated to improve the working of the HCL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c). The details of losses incurred by Hindustan Copper Limited during the last 4 years are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)	
Year	Losses
1982-83	29.63
1983-84	6.78*
1984-85	3.27*
1985-86	27.71*

*Excluding interest on Government loan as the Company has been granted interest holiday for these years.

The main reasons for losses incurred by the Company are :

- (i) Low grade of ore and low scale of operations.
- (ii) Increase in input costs; and
- (iii) Shortage and high cost of power.

The important steps taken and/or under contemplation of Hindustan Copper Limited to improve its working include :

- (i) Modernisation of smelter and refinery at the Khetri Copper Complex and Indian Copper Complex;
- (ii) Improvement of capacity utilisation in mines, concentrators and smelters; and
- (iii) Phasing out of uneconomic mines and developing new ones.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Hindustan Copper Complex, Ghatshila was a profit making unit till 1977. It was making a profit of Rs. 15 crores per year. Mallajkhund unit in M.P. is a highly mechanised unit opened in 1982 by the late Indira Gandhi with high hopes of meeting India's need of copper. But inspite of that H.C.L. is losing Rs. 30 crores per year now, as the hon. Minister has given reasons, due to low capacity utilisation and also mis-management and corruption at various levels. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the total production of copper in India for the last three years and how much copper are we importing now and what are the plans to meet the gap ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : The reasons for losses incurred have been given in the statement. Some of those reasons are really related to the natural causes. For instance, the grade of ore which is much poorer than any other country. Precious metals are low in that ore. That is another reason for this. As the hon. Member knows these units were nationalised and they have low capacity, much lower than similar units in other countries. All these factors militate against the economic functioning of the units. Then, there is

increase of power tariff which was very rapid. I do not want to burden the House with these figures. But they have gone up rapidly during the last year and this has increased the burden considerably.

So far as production goes, saleable copper production in the last three years is :

1983-84	36147 tonnes
1984-85	48002 tonnes
1985-86	38753 tonnes

That means production of about 45000 tonnes or so. Import for the last three years is—in 1983-84, 52,175 tonnes against the production of 36,147 tonnes, in 1984-85, 40,315 tonnes against 48,000 tonnes, in 1985-86, the import is 68,148 tonnes against the production of 38,753 tonnes.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : One of the reasons for this loss which is increasing, according to my information, is mismanagement and nepotism going on in the management. I would like to specifically know from the hon. Minister whether the Government had received some complaints of corruption and nepotism even from some M.Ps. against some top management personnel against whom CBI cases are pending, and whether the Government have any information regarding any unholy alliance between the management and some suppliers like R.G. Ispat of Jaipur and United Forgings of Malanj Khand who are regularly paid, according to my information, Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 lakhs per month in excess of supplies which they are making to the Hindustan Copper Ltd.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, so far as the management is concerned, I cannot say that specific instances of mismanagement as such have come to light, but I think there is scope for taking various management steps to improve the efficiency and there is no doubt that in the course of the last year we have been trying to identify what these steps are to be. Certain things have already been started like the modernisation of smelters and so on. There is an attempt to identify the mines which are more efficient and less costly and switchover production more costly mines to lower cost mines and so on.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : What about those middlemen who...

SHRI K.C. PANT : I am coming to that. Prof. Ranga, I have more patience than you !

So, this is one aspect of the matter.

So far as the cases of corruption are concerned, at present there are 12 cases against senior officers of HCL which are under investigation. In two cases involving four officers based upon CBI reports, the Central Vigilance Commission has advised initiation of action for major penalty proceedings. In another three cases, the report from the CBI has been received by the Company and the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission is being obtained for further action. In one more case the CBI is inquiring into the matter. In the remaining cases the departmental inquiries are in progress or consultation with CVC is under way. All cases of malpractices are looked into and I can assure the Member, any officers found guilty will be duly punished and if my hon. friend also sends me information, that too will be inquired into.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Sir, while I appreciate the hon. Minister for his patience we are very impatient when we note the losses incurred by this particular Company. In 1982-83 the loss was Rs. 29.6 crores, in 1983-84, it was Rs. 6.7 crores, in 1984-85 it was Rs. 3.2 crores and in 1985-86 it was Rs. 27.71 crores. So, naturally whatever explanation is coming forth from the Government, it is a stupendous loss and nothing can justify the loss of the public sector to this extent and there must be some very serious reasons as to why in the last one year you have incurred such loss in a public sector company. I would like to know the financial position in other mines in the country, whether they are also faring in this bad manner and whether there is something encouraging to enter into the 21st century. (*Interruptions*). Nothing can explain such a loss in one year. That means, naturally we have made a retrograde version in the last one year. It is nearly 9 times the loss incurred in the previous year. Why ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I have explained some of the reasons for the loss in the beginning, as for example, low grade of ore. I was general, now I will be more specific. The average grade of copper ore mine by HCL is 1.17% as against 2.77% in some of the copper producing African countries, Zaire, Zambia and so on. You see the difference, 1.1% to 2.77%.

MR. SPEAKER : He is concerned why 9-time higher in one year, 3 to 27 ? That is what is bothering him.

SHRI K.C. PANT : He raised the question of public sector and, therefore, I am explaining this. I think, he should appreciate that these were taken over from the private sector because they could not run those units. Therefore, I am explaining that there are certain causes, certain reasons which are basic and because of these various basic reasons, this is not working at a profit. We are trying to improve that.

So far as the losses during the last year are concerned, I have found that production figures are reasonably all right. It is not that production figures have gone down sharply. But I have found that power tariff has gone up quite sharply. And, in fact, in the Khetri area, I find that, in 1984-85, the power rates were 0.62. In September, 1986, it was 0.89 per unit, *i.e.* 27 paise increase. Copper production requires about 10,000 units of power per tonne. You can imagine what the impact will be for taking production of 40 to 50 thousand tonnes per year into account.

In ICC area, it is from 0.80 to 1.09, *i.e.* an increase of 29 paise. And then, in MCP, Malaj Khand, you will be amazed to know that there is an increase from 0.65 to 1.33 paise. That is an increase of 0.68 paise.

The other important reason was that there was a shut-down for overhaul of the smelters and overhauling was scheduled for 1985-86, for May to July. For 2 months to 3 months, it was shut down for major overhauling which certainly accounted for loss of production.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of what the hon. Minister has stated, I would like to ask him whether in the maximum loss is because of corruption and mismanagement which is rampant in such Units? You will recall that I had myself reported a case here in which a Managing Director had actually exported 35,000 tonnes of copper rivets to England, but only 14,000 tonnes were shown. There was bungling of Rs. 20 crores. CBI and Vigilance Department investigated the matter, but subsequently he was let off and no action was taken against him. Similarly, in Khetri Copper Project, there are several corruption cases against the Managing Director, the highest officer there. In spite of this, he was promoted and someone else was appointed Managing Director there. Similarly, there are corruption cases against many officers working there. They make excessive purchasing to an extent that material worth crores of rupees is lying unused there. This kind of mismanagement is prevailing there. Kindly tell us know whether anybody has been punished in any case. No action has been taken against any officer to date. The cases are sent to CBI and the Vigilance Department, but no action is taken. That is why mismanagement and corruption are on the increase. I would like to know the number of cases in which these persons have been challaned and whether they have been awarded any sentence by the court or not...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : They have been challaned, but awarding sentence is a different matter.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Project is in your neighbourhood, but no one has been punished.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have submitted that CBI and CVC have been consulted. You are not satisfied with even CBI and CVC findings, you are not satisfied with the management there also. My problem is that I do not have any other agency...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Put Shri Vyasji on the job.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I cannot put Shri Vyas on the job.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Had you put me on the job, I would have sacked all of them.

SHRI K.C. PANT : If there is any scope in future, kindly tell me.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : We are satisfied, but Mr. Pant, you have given him promotion. With that, we are not satisfied.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Darab Cooper Project is in Alwar. I want to ask about that.

MR. SPEAKER : Not now. Darab will be coming quite later. Leave it at present.

[English]

Shifting of 20 KW Transmitter from Ajmer

*186. **SHRI VISHNU MODI :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the 20 KW transmitter from Ajmer and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government propose to use the same transmitter for relaying Vividh Bharti programme which is not being relayed by All India Radio, Ajmer; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The 20 KW MW transmitter of AIR at Ajmer has served its useful life. It is being replaced by 2 Nos. of 100 KW MW transmitters. There is also no scheme included in the 7th Plan to start Vividh Bharati Service from Ajmer.