

is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Organic Manure

2543. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal before the Coir Board to produce organic manure from Coir pit on a large scale; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coir Board's Central Coir Research Institute, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agricultural Research University, has developed a technology for conversion of coir pith into organic manure in 30 days using a fungal culture known pithplus. A pilot scale laboratory for production and supply of pithplus has also been set up. In order to popularise the use of pithplus, a scheme for conducting field level demonstrations on the conversion of coir pith into organic manure using pithplus was launched on 24th November, 1995. Initially, under the scheme, 50 locations have been identified for production of organic manure from coir pith, where 2500 MT of coir pith will be converted to approx. 1750 MT of organic manure. The coir units would be assisted by the technical staff of the Coir Board by demonstrating the technique and by giving training in the production of organic manure from coir pith free of charge. Pithplus and Urea required for the demonstration also would be supplied to the units by the Coir Board free of cost.

Production and Export of Bicycles

2544. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the status of India in the World in bicycles production and bicycles manufactured by the major manufacturers from 1990-91 to 1994-95;

(b) the number of bicycles and their components exported, foreign exchange earned during the aforesaid period;

(c) whether India's share in exports is much less as compared to the production of bicycles;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Research and Development programmes in bicycle industry has remained static with no further investment and manufacturers do not allocate sufficient funds; and

(f) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to increase the production and export of quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) to (c) India is the second largest producer of bicycles after China. The bicycles manufactured in the country by the major manufacturers from 1990-91 to 1994-95 are as follows:

Year	Production (in lakhs)
1990-91	70.84
1991-92	71.50
1992-93	69.63
1993-94	74.41
1994-95	78.78

The export of complete bicycles and parts from India is as follows :

Period	Complete bicycles		Parts	Total*
	incl. cycle rickshaw Qty. (in thousand)	Value (in crore rupees)	Value (in crore rupees)	Value (in crore rupees)
1990-91	2.34	15.27	145.98	161.25
1991-92	6.02	53.40	240.95	294.35
1992-93	9.24	97.20	343.42	440.62
1993-94	12.53	154.75	377.76	532.51
1994-95	11.03	146.50	324.31	470.81

*(Estimated)

(d) to (f) Several factors have been responsible for hampering the growth of R & D in the Indian bicycle industry. Some of these are tariff protection for a considerable period, lack of any foreign competition, dependence on imported raw materials, local demand for the roadster type and bulk production being in small scale and ancillary units. Nevertheless, there have been advances in the field of bicycle design and technology after the mid-1970s and now the manufacturers have installed modern machines and equipments and employed mass production techniques. Highly effective quality control programmes have been adopted from pre-manufacturing to post-manufacturing stages. Better quality bicycle parts are also now being produced in the country. There are no regulatory constraints for enhancement of production turnover.

In order to give a fillip to export of bicycles, the concerned Export Promotion Council is sending teams to study developments in overseas markets with a view to adopt the same at home, and is also proposing to participate in international fairs abroad.

Railway Projects

2545. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway Projects in West Bengal pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) the present position of these projects; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) There are no railway projects in West Bengal pending with the Union Government for approval at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rising of Sea Level

2546. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the level of the sea is rising gradually;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is causing any danger to the coastal areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) According to Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it is estimated that global sea levels will rise by an average of 4.5. to 6 millimeters per year with a range of statistical uncertainty of 3 to 10 millimeters. According to a report of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research on Global Change, the expected rise in sea level along the Indian coasts would be approximately same as that of the global projections.

(c) and (d) There is a high amount of uncertainty in the estimates of variations in Mean Sea Level due to climate change. In view of this, it cannot be said that there is an immediate danger to the coastal areas.

(e) and (f) The following programmes have been taken up for monitoring the expected variations in Mean Sea Level;

(i) the Department of Ocean Development (DOD) has a project to instal modern tide gauges at strategic locations to measure the daily tides for assessing the mean sea level more accurately.

(ii) the DOD's project also envisages preparation of fine scale coastal maps for the stretch from Nellore to Machilipatnam on the East Coast showing half a metre contour. These maps would be useful for more realistic assessment of the inundation of the coastal areas.

(iii) The work of preparation of coastal maps for the rest of the coast is being taken up by the Department of Science & Technology through Survey of India.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Industries

2547. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major, medium and small industries registered as on April 1, 1995, State-wise;

(b) the number of those industries which are functioning and lying closed, respectively;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints that the main reasons for closure of industries in Bihar is inadequate supply of power; and

(d) if so, the measures being considered by the Government to provide adequate power for the industries in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Modern Rail Ware House

2548. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for construction of Modern Rail Ware House at Indore;

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) to (c) Railways have constructed a new Goods Shed at Laxmibai Nagar, Indore. Besides, Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has set up an Inland container Depot (ICD) at Indore with a warehouse for stuffing, destuffing and examination of export/import cargo.

Electrification of Railway Stations

2549. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway have revised the norms for the electrification of regular and flag Railway Stations in the country whereby electricity from the State Electricity