

was the level on January 4, 1996.

(b) The level of Exchange rate of the rupee at present is more realistic and will help ensure that export growth remains strong and import growth is contained. Both these factors will help to contain the trade deficit to manageable levels.

(c) and (d) India's foreign trade data are compiled on financial year (April-March) basis. Trade deficit as at the end of 1994-95 and those for the previous two years as also during April-December 1995 the latest period for which such data are available, are as follows :

	Rs. crores	Million
1992-93	9687	3345
1993-94	3350	1069
1994-95	7297	2324
April-Dec., 1995	11571	3535

(e) Recent changes in the exchange rate has corrected the erosion in competitiveness and will help ensure that export growth remains strong and import growth is contained.

(f) India's exports registered an increase of 24.2% in US \$ terms during April-December 1995 which is higher than the 16.9% growth during the corresponding period last year.

(g) and (h) The objective of the Exim Policy 1992-97 which is updated annually is to accelerate export growth on a sustained basis, to encourage imports substitution and provide enhanced opportunities in the domestic sector to participate and benefit from such growth.

[Translation]

Sub-regional office of ESI in Karnataká

581. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for the opening of a Sub-Regional Office of the E.S.I. Corporation at Hubli in Karnataka for the convenience of the industrial workers of Northern region of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up of a Sub-Regional Office at Hubli in Karnataka was sent by the State Government to the ESI Corporation on 19.9.95. The matter has been examined in the light of the guidelines approved by the Standing Committee of the ESI Corporation. As number of the Insured Persons at Hubli falls short of the minimum norm of one lakh, it has not been found possible to open

a Sub-Regional Office of ESI Corporation at Hubli for the present.

Textile Mills in Gujarat

582. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cotton spinning and weaving mills in Gujarat as on date and the number of mills out of them taken over by the National Textile Corporation and the Gujarat State Textiles Corporation;

(b) the number of mills referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for winding up;

(c) the number of mills in regard to which decision has been taken for modernisation thereof; and

(d) the amount allocated for modernisation of the said mills particularly in tribal and backward areas ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There were 133 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Units and 34 exclusive weaving units in Gujarat as on 31.1.96. As per available information, 17 mills have been taken over by Gujarat State Textiles Corporation. The number of mills under the NTC in Gujarat is 12.

(b) The cases of 45 Sick Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile mills including exclusive weaving units in Gujarat, have been referred to BIFR as on 30.9.95. Out of these, BIFR has recommended winding up in respect of 20 cases. The case of NTC (Gujarat) Ltd., is among those referred to the BIFR.

(c) and (d) BIFR draws up rehabilitation packages through Operating Agencies appointed by it for revival of the viable sick mills. Modernisation may form a part of rehabilitation package. Out of 45 cases, BIFR has sanctioned rehabilitation scheme under Sec. 18(4) in 6 cases and AAIFR has sanctioned rehabilitation scheme in 2 cases. Separate data for mills in tribal areas, is not maintained.

[English]

Revenue Loss Due to Hawala

583. SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the annual loss in rupees which the country have to incur due to illegal transaction of foreign exchanges (Hawala);

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to plug this leak;

(c) whether the Government propose to make a thorough probe into working of the Hawala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) It is not possible to quantify the annual loss because of the clandestine nature of transactions. However, the amounts involved in cases of such transactions detected during the last three years are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Amount involved (approx.)
1992-93	7686
1993-94	20034
1994-95	38367

(b) to (d) The Government (through the Enforcement Directorate) keeps a strict vigil on the activities of the hawala racketeers. Action as envisaged under the law is taken as and when any information pertaining to such activities is received.

Export of Isabgol

584. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Isabgol has tremendous potential for export;

(b) if so, the total quantity of Isabgol exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of last three years;

(c) whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority has taken any initiative to promote the export and increase the production of Isabgol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) It has good potential.

(b) The total quantity of Isabgol exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as under :-

Value In Rs. Crores		
Year	Qty.	Value
1992-93	15348	77.41
1993-94	15576	75.47
1994-95	20890	113.72

(c) and (d) Basic Chemicals, pharmaceuticals and Cosmetic Export Promotion Council (Chemexcil) and not Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is concerned with the export promotion of Isabgol. The steps taken by Chemexcil to boost the export of this item include exchange of trade delegation, participation in specialised trade fairs abroad and exchange and dissemination of relevant information.

Textile Export

585. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up Indo-Israel task force for promoting textile export;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the task force in this direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closure of Textile Mills

586. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a result of closure of textile mills in Ahmedabad, about 40,000 workers have been rendered jobless;

(b) if so, whether steps have since been taken for payment of statutory dues to them;

(c) whether the Govt. of Gujarat have sent any proposal of Union Govt. to take over the assets of these sick textile mills and rejuvenate them by pooling their resources and granting loans for payment of statutory dues to the workers; and

(d) if so, the Govt.'s decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) According to Ministry of Industry the Govt. of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to Ministry of Industry for grant of assistance from National Renewal Fund for Area Regeneration Scheme for 19 closed textile mills under liquidation. The proposal envisages, "inter-alia", takeover of assets of these mills by State Govt., payment of legal dues to 30,150 employees, incentive for Area Regeneration and utilisation of assets of closed mills etc.,

According to Ministry of Industry, the proposal of State Govt. would be taken up after necessary approval to the operation modalities for grant of assistance from the National Renewal Fund has been obtained.

Air Fields in Arunachal Pradesh

587. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to construct air strip in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.