

wood based has been brought down from 20 to 18% in the current budget.

- (v) Customs Duty on the import of coal and chemicals used in the Paper Industry has been considerably brought down.
 - (vi) Customs Duty on the import of wood logs and wood chips has been brought down from 10% to zero.
 - (vii) Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute, an autonomous institute under the Government has done significant work in the field of research and development for paper industry like chemical recovery system, raw-material studies and other innovations which have helped to increase the production of paper in the country.
 - (viii) As a result of liberalised industrial policy introduced in 1991, 502 Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandums with a capacity of 83.52 lakh tonnes per annum have been filed for the manufacture of paper etc.
- (d) Domestic supply of paper is growing in tandem with increase in demand. Domestic industry is geared to meet the broad based and growing demand for paper and paper-boards.

High Cost of Production of Export Items

600. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the cost of production of export items in the country is more as compared to other developing countries;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether obsolete equipments, poor management and low labour productivity are the problems faced by the exporters;
- (d) if so, whether it is a fact that exporters are unable to compete their products in the international market due to the above problems; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (e) Sir, export performance is dependent inter alia on international factors such as market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, besides domestic parameters such as the policy framework and procedures, state of domestic infrastructure, export competitiveness of export items etc.

India's export basket contains a large number of items and no specific study has been done by the Government for all the export commodities regarding the cost of production in the country vis-a-vis other developing countries. It might, however, be mentioned that in addition to the cost of production, other factors which influence export competitiveness include inter alia lack of export subsidies, high cost of infrastructure due to inefficiency in energy, transport, ports etc., cost of export credit, productivity of the factors of production etc.

Government monitors the trade performance on a continuous basis and export promotion measures are continuously being taken through changes in policies and procedures to provide for an export friendly environment, involving the States in export promotion, consultations with trade and industry of initiation of appropriate remedial measures to tackle general as well as sector-specific problems as warranted from time to time.

Grants to Disinvestment Commission

6470. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the World Bank has granted Rs. 1.75 crore to the Disinvestment Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the areas where this amount is likely to be invested ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The I.B.R.D. (World Bank) have indicated their agreement to make to India a grant in an amount not exceeding US \$ 495000. This is meant for the Disinvestment Commission and will mainly finance short-term and long-term consultants for the next 2 years. The concurrence of the Government has so far not been conveyed to the World Bank or the agreement counter-signed.

Public Sector Undertaking

6471. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs have decided to recover the outstandings of around Rs. 15,000/- crores against the Public Sector Undertakings;
- (b) if so, the details of these outstandings, undertaking/wise and state-wise; and
- (c) the efforts made so far to recover the amount

and reasons stated by the concerned Public Sector Undertakings for non-payment ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal Sector

6472. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mines in Meghalaya alongwith the production of coal during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of coal exported from the State during above period and the countries to whom it was exported;

(c) whether the Government propose to export coal to Bangladesh from the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) does not have any working coal mine in Meghalaya. In the only CIL mine at Simsang (Opencast) in Meghalaya, incline drivage is in progress. Coal production in Meghalaya is in the unorganised sector. The estimated coal production in the unorganised sector in Meghalaya during the period from 1993-94 to 1995-96 is given below :

(In Lakh Tonnes)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
25.40	32.70	32.50

(b) Coal produced in the unorganised sector in Meghalaya is being exported to Bangladesh. The estimated quantum of coal exported to Bangladesh from the unorganised sector of Meghalaya during the last three years is given below :-

(In Lakh Tonnes)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
5.20	8.60	2.19

(c) and (d) With effect from 1.4.1993, the earlier restriction of minimum export price on coal export has been removed and all coal, including coal exported from Meghalaya has become freely exportable without any restrictions. There is no proposal of the Union Ministry of Coal regarding export of coal to Bangladesh from Meghalaya

New Industrial Policy

6473. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to promote private investment (both domestic and foreign) in industries specifically in the North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith areas identified for investment ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Industrial development is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Industry is also considering formulation of a new Industrial Policy specific to North Eastern Region to promote private investment.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

6474. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some textile mills in Gujarat are being modernised with the help of foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the names of these textile mills;

(c) the names of the countries and the financial institutions which provided funds for their modernisation; and

(d) the details of the funds made available by them during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Textiles is not aware of textile mills in Gujarat being modernised with foreign assistance.

[Translation]

Textile Industry

6475. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to chalk out any action plan for textile organisations and Export Promotion Councils to give impetus to weaving and processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be finalized ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the