

Import of newsprint by STC

4338 SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of newsprint with its value imported by state Trading Corporation during each of the last five years

(b) the procedure adopted for its distribution particularly to small and medium newspapers alongwith credit facilities extended to them; and

(c) the total quantity of the newsprint in stock at the end of march each year during the above period and the reasons for piling up the stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Foreign Investment Promotion Board

4339 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the total number of investment proposal cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) till date.

(b) whether FIPB has cleared the proposal of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation to set up wholly-owned subsidiary in the country, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) 3249 numbers of proposal envisaging foreign direct investment of Rs 80 620 Crores have been approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board during the period from 1.8.91 to 30.09.96

(b) and (c) The proposal of M/S/ News Corporation, USA for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in India to be engaged in development and sourcing of media software bringing in modern techniques and equipment, promotion and marketing of STAR TV, was recommended for consideration of Government by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) However, Government have not approved the proposal.

Production of Coal

4340 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal produced in Bokaro-Kargali colliery area under Central coal Field Limited during the last three years, and

(b) the action taken by the Government to increase the coal production in collieries of Bokaro Kargali area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Coal production from Bokaro and Kargali area under Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) during the last three years is as under :-

(Million Tonnes)		
1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
3.00	2.75	2.64

(b) For increasing the level of Coal production from Bokaro and Kargali area, 3 new project are under implementation and Advance Action for 5 more projects has been initiated.

[Translation]

Credit Deposit Ratio of Banks in Maharashtra

4341 SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the locations-wise details of branches of nationalised banks functioning in Maharashtra, bank-wise;

(b) the details of the amount deposited in these banks during each of the last two years, bank-wise.

(c) the loan amounts sanctioned/allocated to the farmers during the said period, bank-wise;

(d) whether the target fixed for distribution of loans have been achieved by these banks;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

Gold Confiscated at IGIA, Delhi

4342. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of gold, confiscated at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi during the last three years, month-wise;

(b) the number of smugglers detained on this account; and

(c) the details of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The quantity and value of gold seized at the Indira Gandhi International Airport,

during the last three years, month-wise is given below :-

Month/ Year	Qty in kg	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95		
April	0.676	3.12
May	0.996	3.31
June	2.699	13.93
July	3.498	15.95
August	21.566	96.91
September	0.936	4.38
October	Nil	Nil
November	1.888	8.98
December	3.538	16.79
Jan 95	16.496	77.53
Feb 95	Nil	Nil
March 95	0.701	3.26
1995-96		
April	5.830	28.00
May	Nil	Nil
June	53.867	254.64
July	2.824	13.17
August	9.081	43.03
September	2.388	11.23
October	1.980	9.70
November	13.059	64.85
December	7.694	41.49
Jan. 96	1.516	7.88
Feb 96	5.000	27.00
March. 96	2.38	13.59
1996-97		
April	1.632	8.58
May	22.769	121.18
June	5.600	29.12
July	25.985	133.18
August	31.506	162.58
September	11.443	59.09
October	5.631	28.95

(b) and (c) Action taken against persons found involved in the smuggling of gold in aforesaid seizures is as follows :-

No. of persons arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons detained under cofeposa
68	65	49

Foreign Exchange through Hawala Trade

4343 SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether people are getting foreign exchange through illegal Hawala trade;

(b) if so, the number of persons against whom action has been taken in this regard during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such trade?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Cases where people get foreign exchange through compensatory (Hawala) payments do come to the notice of the Enforcement Directorate.

(b) Data in this regard are not maintained statewise. However, the number of persons against whom action has been taken in this regard by the Enforcement Directorate (Zonewise) during the last two years are as under :-

Zone	1995	1996
Mumbai	289	142
Chennai	157	45
Jalandhar	121	199
Delhi	67	150
Calcutta	82	39

(c) The Enforcement Directorate maintains a strict vigil to keep a check on such transactions. Appropriate action warranted under the law is taken as and when any such case comes to the notice of the Directorate.

World Bank Aided Coal Projects

4344. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of on going coal projects financed by World Bank/International Agencies, project-wise; and

(b) the details of new projects proposed to be financed by the World Bank and their present status project-wise, particularly, for projects in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) These are two on-going World Bank assisted projects being implemented by Coal India. These are: Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance project and Environmental and Social Mitigation Project. The former is scheduled to close on