

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of honey industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Honey is used in ayurvedic preparations by firms like Zandu, Charak, Dabur and Baidyanath. The honey is also used in pharmaceutical companies using it for their syrup, tonic, cough syrup, B-complex syrup.

(c) the steps taken for the promotion of beekeeping industry under KVIC includes the development of beekeeping industry on modern scientific lines, exploring and trying to cover the plantation area also. The KVIC has also introduced high honey yielding varieties of honey bees viz. *apis mellifera* in most of the parts of the country in order to increase the output of honey. KVIC provides infrastructure support, package of services such as training, supply of improved tools, equipments, standard bee boxes on subsidised rates, adequate technical support and appropriate financial assistance. The KVIC has formulated national programme on beekeeping development for a period of three years. The programme will be implemented through directly aided institutions. Ninety nine projects have been identified to be implemented in 96 districts of 21 States and will be implemented with total cost of Rs. 110 crores generating employment to 50,000 artisans. It is envisaged that 1500 metric tonnes of apiary honey and 10 tonnes bees wax and 350 metric tonnes dorsata honey valued at Rs.120.00 crores per annum will be produced which will contributed to pollination all over 90,000 hectares of vegetables, fruits, oil crops.

Dearness Allowance/Interim Relief

2615. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of dearness allowance and interim relief due for payment for the Central Government employees as on the end of June, 1996;

(b) the steps taken to release the D.A. instalment and the Interim Relief to the Central Government employees;

(c) the delay which the payment is proposed to be made; and

(d) the steps taken in the above matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). As at the end of June, 1996, no additional instalment of Dearness Allowance is due to the Central Government employees. As regards Interim Relief, the Fifth Central Pay Commission has been requested to consider whether another instalment of interim Relief may be granted to the Central Government employees. Their Report is awaited.

[Translation]

Revival of NTC Mills

2616. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether BIFR have issued notices to many textile mills of National Textile Corporation in Uttar Pradesh for their closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government for the revival and modernisations, and

(d) if so, the concrete steps being proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). The NTC (UP) Ltd. with 9 mills under its control in the state of Uttar Pradesh has been referred to the BIFR which has declared it to be a sick industrial company. The BIFR had issued a notice calling for objections from the concerned parties for winding up the company.

(c) No specific proposal has been received from the Govt. of U.P. for revival and modernisation of the mills under NTC (UP) Ltd.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Steps to Improve Liquidity of Industry

2617. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to improve the liquidity position of the industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Government and the RBI are fully aware of the need to ensure flow of adequate funds to industry and have already initiated several measures in this direction in the past four months. Among the steps taken to improve the liquidity position of the industry are the following :

(i) The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) on net domestic demand and time liabilities has been reduced from 14% to 12% in phases and the Non-Resident (External) Rupee Deposits have also been fully exempted from CRR.

(ii) The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on the outstanding Non-Resident (External) Rupee