

developing countries as official Development Assistance and to attain the target of 0.15% of their GNP for assistance to the least developed countries as soon as possible. They also agreed to consider enhancing their assistance for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development programmes in the developing countries.

Increase/Decrease in Public Sector Institutions

1199 SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any change in the number of public sector undertakings and in the number of employees working therein during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any improvement has been noticed in utilisation of the installed capacity during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details of such units which are making production by utilising the 90%, 75%, 50% and 25% more capacity than their installed capacity during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The details for three years ending 31.3.1994 upto which period only the information is available, are given below :

Year	No. of PSUs	No. of regular employees
1991-92	246	21.79 lakhs
1992-93	245	21.52 lakhs
1993-94	246	20.69 lakhs

(c) and (d). The details of utilisation of installed capacity by various public sector undertakings are available in the Statement No. 23 of Volume I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1993-94 laid on the Table of the House on 22nd March, 1995

Import of Newsprint

1200. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Tribune' dated July 21, 1996 under captioned 'Scam in newsprint unearthed';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the modus-operandi of the scam;

(c) whether the Government propose to impose restrictions on the import of newsprint to avoid its misuse; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Prior to 30th April, 1995, import of newsprint was permitted in accordance with the provisions of Public Notice No. 118/PN(92-97) dt. 31st March, 1993, which, inter alia, allowed import for those who held a certificate of entitlement to import newsprint issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi. According to available information, CBI has called for certain details from the Registrar of Newspapers to get relevant procedures and documents required for working out entitlement of newsprint for such entitlement certificates. No other details are available with the Ministry of Commerce in this regard

(c) and (d). Import of newsprint is freely permitted under the current Export & Import Policy.

[English]

Trade Agreement With Canada

1201. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed recently between India and Canada for export promotion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). No Trade Agreement with Canada was signed by the Government. However, agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed during the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister to India in January, 1996, which is expected to contribute to an increase of trade between the two countries.

SEBI Guidelines

1202. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has made some changes in regulations/guidelines governing the mutual funds during recent months;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by SEBI to make investment in mutual fund more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had appointed an Expert committee to go into standardisation of accounting practices, computation of NAV, Fee structure, etc. of Mutual Funds. The Committee has submitted its recommendations which have been accepted by SEBI.

SEBI had also conducted a study 'Mutual Funds-2000' on the structure of mutual funds, scope and applicability of the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993, registration, governance and operations of mutual funds. The recommendations of the report have been approved by SEBI Board. Based on these recommendations, SEBI has initiated step to amend the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993. The suggested measures will improve working of the mutual funds and give a greater degree of freedom to the Fund Managers within a well-regulated frame-work as well as increase the level of investor protection.

Investment By Banks in Capital Market

1203. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many public sector commercial banks are facing a major problem in pricing their proposed Initial Public Offerings in the present depressed capital market;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that so far none of the banks, who are keen on issuing equity to the public at premium for augmenting their resources, has expressed any difficulty about the pricing of such issues on account of depressed capital market

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[Translation]

NTC Mills in Rajasthan

1204. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the name and locations of the NTC Mills in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the labour unrest, mismanagement and irregularities prevailing in the NTC mills in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) The Government's plan for development of NTC mills in Rajasthan by providing them assistance from National Renewal Fund and for implementation of the

schemes announced for making those workers self-reliant who had taken voluntary retirement?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA) : (a) The names and locations of the 4 NTC mills under NTC (DPR) located in Rajasthan are as follows :-

1. Edward Mills, Beawar
2. Mahalakshmi mills, Beawar
3. Shri Bijay Cotton Mills, Bijay Nagar.
4. Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur

(b) No specific instances of labour unrest, mismanagement and irregularities have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Does not arise

(d) NTC (DPR) has been referred to BIFR which has declared to be sick industrial company. Government has formulated a Revised Turn Around Plan for the Mills of NTC (DP&R) including those in Rajasthan. The same will be implemented after BIFR has approved the rehabilitation programme. In respect of surplus work force Government is implementing a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for their rationalisation in the NTC Mills. In respect of 4 mills located in Rajasthan, till date 1392 employees have been covered under the scheme and an amount of Rs. 8.12 crores has been paid to them out of the National Renewal Fund.

In addition Government have formulated a scheme for rehabilitation of the rationalised workers. Under the scheme, the workers can start his own project by purchasing old looms from NTC at a nominal price or can purchase new powerlooms/reeling machines from machinery manufactures. The requisite finance is available from the bank. The company would also provide production incentive in such ventures after successful operation of six months from the date of commissioning. Till date, 184 looms have been provided to 23 workers of Mahalakshmi Mills and Edward Mills

[English]

Trade With Australia

1205. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to expand trade relation with Australia during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details of new areas identified for the expansion of Indo-Australian trade; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost export to that country during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Expansion of trade relations with Australia is an ongoing exercise. Efforts are being made to expand and diversify our export basket to Australia, in more