

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I am asking the question.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: He is giving full information.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude your question.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I am asking the question but I am being interrupted frequently then how can, I continue with my question?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question Hours time is coming to an end soon.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: My question is as to what is being done to make this company viable? What steps are being taken to reduce the losses there by making it a profit making company? In our State, the two districts Purulia and Bankura ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She has listened to your question. Now let her reply.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I would like to know whether new projects will be sanctioned, particularly on the right bank of river Damodar, in the two Districts of West Bengal, Purulia and Bankura, which have abundant reserves of coal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give some time for answer.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the hon. Member is very much familiar with ECIL area, hence he knows every aspect of it. As far as his question is concerned, I had already mentioned that we have chalked out an action plan for bringing improvement therein. The hon. Member has made a mention of Purulia and Bankura. We are likely to start new projects there also as had already been told about it. I will talk to the hon. Member regarding specific points. In addition to this, whatever information he wants, I will give it to him ... (Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Achariaji, please take your seat. I have already asked the other member to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have chalked out an action plan for the progress of ECIL. I would like to ask the Minister as to whether there has been a decline in manpower in ECIL

every year and it is suffering heavy losses despite increase in the production and productivity? Whether the Minister will tell as to how much production is required so that the company is run on no profit no loss basis?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever the information hon. Member has asked for, we will furnish it to him.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Bidi Industry

*45. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons engaged in bidi industry in the country, particularly in Bihar, the annual production of bidi and the quantity exported out of it;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage bidi industry and to raise the wages of workers and also to improve their health care; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government propose to formulate such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The estimated total number of workers engaged in the manufacture of bidi in the country is 43,63,520. Based on figures of cess collection for 1996-97, the production of bidi in the country is estimated to be 41780 crore number. In Bihar the estimated number of bidi workers is 3,91,500 and the production during the above period is 1956 crore number of bidies. The export of bidi from the country in terms of value during 1995-96 has been Rs. 16.11 crores.

(b) and (c) Facilities and incentives extended to the small industry are available for the growth and development of bidi industry. The working conditions/Welfare/health care of Bidi workers are governed under the following Central Acts.

(i) Government have enacted Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 for the welfare of the bidi workers and to regulate the conditions of their work.

(ii) The provisions of Payment of Wages Act, other relevant Industrial Workers Acts and Labour Laws have been made applicable to bidi workers. The State Governments revise minimum wages for bidi workers from time to time under the provisions of the Act.

(iii) Through enactment of the Bidi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 and the Bidi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, a 'Welfare Fund' has been created for bidi workers under Ministry of Labour, Government of India. The Ministry of Labour is implementing

a number of welfare schemes for bidi workers and their families in the field of health, education, housing and recreation.

[English]

Legislative Councils

*46. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to review Legislative Councils in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some parties are not only opposing the view of reviving Legislative Councils but also suggesting to wind up Legislative Councils in the States where they are existing; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a), (b) and (d) Government have decided to introduce a Bill for revival of Legislative Councils in the States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Insurance Cover to Investors

*47. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI:

SHRI VIJAY PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 1000 crore CRB scam was unearthed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring forward a legislation to protect investors;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) whether an insurance cover is likely to be provided to protect the interest of investors;

(f) if so, the details thereof and other measures likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The main activities of CRB Capital Markets Ltd. (CRBCML) were hire purchase, leasing, merchant banking, bills discounting and making loans and advances. A complaint was received in December, 1996 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. regarding default of repayment of deposits by CRB Capital Markets Ltd. Global Trust Bank Ltd. has also reported to RBI in March, 1997 about

development of Letter of Credit opened by a group Company. Further, CRBCML fraudulently overdraw its accounts with the State Bank of India, Mumbai Main Branch (MMB) for payment of interest warrants, deposit refunds and brokerage warrants by an amount of over Rs. 58 crores. Keeping in view the findings of the inspection carried out by RBI between November, 1996 and January, 1997 and the subsequent developments, especially relating to State Bank of India (SBI), RBI issued prohibitory orders in April, 1997 under section 45MB(1) & (2) of RBI Act directing the company not to accept any further deposits and not to alienate any assets without prior permission of RBI. RBI filed a winding up petition in the Delhi High Court under section 45 MC of the RBI Act on 21.5.1997. A provisional Liquidator has been appointed by the Delhi High Court. The Liquidator has initiated action to crystallize the assets and liabilities of the company.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the twin needs of providing adequate protection to the depositors and maintaining the stability of the financial system, the Parliament has recently enacted amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act, for regulating Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) which inter-alia, include mandatory requirements for registration, minimum net owned funds, maintenance of liquid assets, compulsory transfer of certain proportion of profits to reserves and empowering the Company Law Board to look into the cases of non repayment of deposits. These measures would facilitate continued liquidity and solvency of NBFCs and are expected to go a long way in enabling the NBFCs to meet the liabilities of depositors as and when they accrue.

(e) to (g) A viable deposit insurance scheme for NBFCs requires the consolidation of this sector and an adequate frame-work for their supervision. Further, the possibility of the riskier of the NBFCs being favoured by a non-discriminating, all inclusive approach to deposit insurance has to be kept in view. The examination of the feasibility of introducing a deposit insurance scheme for the depositors of NBFCs is one of the terms of reference of the working group constituted by RBI in September 1996 to examine an appropriate instrumentality for supervision of NBFCs.

Trade with Bangladesh

*48. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export policy for facilitating trade with Bangladesh in the package of programmes for developing of North-Eastern States has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main recommendations of the Shukla Commission in this regard in framing of this policy; and

(d) the expected time for implementation of the said policy?