

Mutual Funds

3516. DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has made any study about functioning of mutual funds in view of enormous increase of mutual fund companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms, laid down for the safeguard of small investors in these companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has not conducted any study on the Mutual Funds. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has 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 steps 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 framework as well as increase the level of investor protection.

Funds for the Elections

3517. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government propose to start funding of elections to Central/State Legislatures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The question of State funding of elections is under consideration but no decision has yet been taken.

Pending cases for Export Obligation.

3518. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred

Question No. 1940 dated December 8, 1995 regarding

pending cases for export obligation and state :

(a) the amount outstanding against each of 123 export defaulters as on March 31, 1995;

(b) whether the Government propose to re-impose "Export Obligation" clause in import licences granted to Indian Import Companies as was the policy prior to July 28, 1992 in view of huge foreign loans liability; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The latest position in regard to the status of the 123 cases referred to Unstarred Question No. 1940 dated December 8, 1995 is that only in 20 cases, default in fulfilling export obligation has been confirmed. Since, the export obligation to be fulfilled was fixed in terms of percentage of annual production and amounts would vary from case to case depending on annual production figures reported and certified by each individual firm, such information is not readily available.

Under the current Export & Import Policy, export obligation is imposed only in respect of imports of Capital goods permitted under licences issued under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme since it relates to imports on concessional/zero duty. Export obligation is not imposed on import of capital goods in other cases where no such licence is required.

Declining of Industrial Production Growth

3519. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether industrial production has been declining continuously since 1991-92 and particularly for the last six months;

(b) if so, the comparative figures thereof, year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. According to index of industrial production, the overall rate of growth of industrial production was 0.6%, 2.3%, 6.0%, 9.4% and 12.0% during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. The average rate of growth of industrial production during the last six months from November,

1995 to April, 1996 (latest month for which data is available) was 11.0%.

Infrastructure Development Bank

3520. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some infrastructure-development banks to finance construction of roads and highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which those banks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the budget speech for 1996-97, it has been proposed to establish an Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

(b) and (c) As a follow up of the budget announcement, a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Banking) has been constituted by the Reserve Bank of India to work out the modalities for setting up of the IDFC. Pending submission of the report and its acceptance, it is not possible to spell out the time by which IDFC would be set up.

[Translation]

Export of Agri-Products from Bihar

3521. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALAIS PAPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export potential of agricultural products of Bihar and world market for it has been explored;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The major agricultural commodities exported from the country at present are wheat, rice, oilmeals, sugar, tobacco, fruits and vegetables which are produced in Bihar also. The USA, Canada, France, the UK, Russia, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and countries in the Middle East and North Africa are the principal markets for these products. South Africa, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have been identified as possible new destinations.

The steps taken to exploit these markets and boost

export of agricultural products include simplification of inspection on selected items, provisions of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Export of Marine Products

3522. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of fish, dry-fish and fish meals exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of last three years;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to boost the export of marine product and to set-up factories for storage of fish and fish-meals in the country particularly in Southern Gujarat and Saurashtra itself; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity of fish, dry-fish and fish meals exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of last three years has been as under :

Q : Quantity in MT

V : Value in Rs. Crores

Item	1993-94	1994-95	995-96
Fish	Q : 94022 V : 296.00	122529 446.57	100093 372.26
Dry Fish	Q : 2624 V : 16.72	6086 24.16	7340 44.08
Fish Meal	Q : - V : -	- -	76 0.21

(Source : MPEDA)

(b) and (c) The Government has been implementing a number of schemes for boosting export of marine