

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The Government of India has announced Export Import Policy for 1997-2002 which will be valid upto 31.03.2002, wherein a special provision has been made that Export Houses, Star Trading Houses etc. will be given Special Import Licence at 1% of the total turnover from the North Eastern States.

While there is no specific Export Policy for facilitating trade with Bangladesh in terms of development of North Eastern States, initiatives such as operation of additional routes for trade under the Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol, issue of Chittagong Port as an additional Port of call, tariff concessions on 572 tariff lines at six digit level to Bangladesh etc. would have certain benefits for the Indo-Bangladesh trade.

(c) Recommendations of Shukla Committee includes:-

- (i) A transport optimization study for international linkages and transit/transshipment arrangements with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan.
- (ii) Setting up of Inter-Ministerial Task Force to review the entire North East border and inter-country trade issue with particular reference to Bangladesh, Myanmar, South East Asia and South East China and to report on trade opportunities related to manufacturing possibilities in the North East, required infrastructure and communication links, banking and warehousing facilities, necessary customs and security arrangements and manpower needs.
- (iii) Review of Indo-Bangladesh trading possibility and transit routes in relation to North East.
- (iv) Commission of a study (or a joint study with Bangladesh) of the costs and benefits to both countries from trade and transit, including the use of Chittagong Port as a entry port for the North East.

(d) The various recommendations are under examination and it is premature for any time bound implementation plan.

Disinvestment Commission

*49. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL:

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Industry is disowning Disinvestment Panel;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has urged the Finance Ministry to take this Advisory Body under its jurisdiction;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor and to what extent the Finance Ministry has agreed;

(d) the total number of recommendations made by the Disinvestment Commission so far;

(e) the number of recommendations implemented so far;

(f) the total number of Public Sector Undertakings which have been recommended for disinvestment by the Disinvestment Commission; and

(g) the extent to which these Public Sector Undertakings have been allowed to disinvest?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no question of disowning the Disinvestment Commission. As a matter of administrative convenience, placing the Commission with the Finance Ministry had been suggested at one stage. However, the Ministry of Industry continues to remain the administrative Ministry for the Disinvestment Commission.

(d) to (f) 50 Public Sector Undertakings have been referred to the Commission. So far it has submitted three reports covering 15 of these Undertakings. It has recommended varying level of disinvestment/strategic sale/restructuring in 12 PSUs. It has also made some general recommendations on PSUs. The implementation of the recommendations is a continuous process subject to requisite Government decisions. Decisions have already been taken on the major recommendations relating to disinvestment which would assist in raising the targetted resources through disinvestment during the current fiscal year.

(g) No actual disinvestment has taken place so far this year.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Textile Mills and Jute Mills

*50. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided for the modernisation of textile mills and jute mills under textile modernisation scheme and Jute Modernisation Fund during 1996 and 1997 (till date), mill-wise;

(b) whether the said mills are earning profit after modernisation and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers retrenched as a result of modernisation of these mills, mill-wise;

(d) the number of textile/jute mills proposed to be modernised during 1997-98, State-wise; and

(e) the details of the amount likely to be provided for the purpose during the current year?