

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

Closed Coal Mines

*496. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many coal mines in the country in public sector which are lying closed;

(b) if so, the number of coal mines closed down during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the closure of these mines and impact of the closure on production of coal;

(d) whether the Union Government has decided recently to hand over these mines to the State Government and start production in them;

(e) if so, the names of the States to which these closed mines are likely to be handed over in the first phase; and

(f) the time by which the said decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL), the State-wise details of mines closed down by CIL and SCCL during the years 1993-96 and till August in 1996-97 are as under:

State	CIL	SCCL
West Bengal	8	-
Bihar	9	-
Madhya Pradesh	8	-
Maharashtra	2	-
Total	27	-
Andhra Pradesh	-	4
Grand Total		31 Mines

(c) The coal mines were closed on grounds of exhaustion of reserves, inundation safety as well as adverse economic and techno-economic conditions. There has been no significant negative impact of the closure on coal production.

(d) No decision has been taken to handover any of the mines closed by CIL & SCCL during the aforesaid period.

(e) and (f). Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Sale of Subsidised Cotton Yarn

*497. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide subsidised cotton yarn to handloom weavers in the Country through State Handloom Development Corporation;

(b) if not, the other arrangements made to provide this yarn to handloom weavers;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding sale of subsidised yarn to powerloom sector instead of handloom sector;

(d) if so, the number of such complaints received during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the benefit of subsidised cotton yarn must reach to the handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). During the year 1994-95, the Government of India announced the Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme for supply of 20 million kgs. of Cotton Hank Yarn to the handloom weaver at a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per Kg. The scheme was implemented through the Handloom Apex/Regional/Primary Cooperative Societies; State Handloom Development Corporations and National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). This scheme was extended for the year 1995-96 also with a target of 20 million kgs., however, with an enhanced rate of subsidy of Rs. 20/- per kg. The Government of India has also been operating the Mill Gate Price Scheme for supply of Cotton Yarn to the handloom weavers at Mill Gate Prices through National Handloom Development Corporation.

(c) and (d). Government has not received any complaint regarding sale of this subsidised yarn to powerloom sector.

(e) By making available subsidised cotton yarn in adequate quantity, through various Handloom agencies, and strict monitoring over the price situation, the Government has

ensured that the benefits of subsidised cotton yarn reaches the handloom weavers.

[English]

Purchase of Cotton by CCI

*498. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total purchase made by Cotton Corporation of India from various cotton-growing States during the current year; and

(b) the total quantity of cotton exported by Cotton Corporation of India against the purchase made during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) Statewise purchases of cotton by CCI from various cotton growing States in the current year i.e. 1995-96 (Sept.-Aug.) have been as under :

States	(As on 19.8.96) Qty. Purchased (in bales of 170 kg. each)
Punjab	1,22,388
Haryana	72,783
Rajasthan	1,22,958
Gujarat	2,31,730
Madhya Pradesh	2,23,653
Andhra Pradesh	2,11,291
Karnataka	23,715
Tamil Nadu	2,013
Others	5,424
Total	10,15,955

(b) Total export and purchase of cotton by CCI during the last three years are as under .

Year	Qty. Purchased (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)	Qty. Exported (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1992-93	11.86	6.06
1993-94	7.76*	1.46
1994-95	8.43	0.085

Excludes 65,300 Bales purchased from Maharashtra State Co-op. Cotton Growers Mktg. for production of Hank Yarn for distribution among Handloom Weavers

Foreign Borrowings

*499. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to fix any limit of the amount of borrowings by Union Government from foreign countries/institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for fixing any limit of the amount of borrowings by the Union Government from multilateral and bilateral foreign donors.

Union Government borrows from multilateral and bilateral donors for the country's economic development. However, country's external debt burden and debt servicing liability are always kept in view while contracting new loans.

Non-Viable Branches of G.I.C.

*500. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) propose to close down non-viable branches of its subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to merge non-viable branches with the viable ones;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other alternatives proposed to be taken to make them viable?