

(d) and (e). The Government have taken various steps from time to time to increase the availability of cloth in the country such as liberalisation of licensing provision, fiscal restructuring, special attention to the production of handloom cloth, permitting import of textile machinery under OGL and reduction of customs duty on such imports, research and development, etc. It is estimated that during 1996-97 the production of cloth in the country would be around 29,500 million sq. mtrs as per the Working Group Report on the Textile Industry for the 8th Five Year plan period (1992-97).

Jute Mills

2707. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Jute mills and Textile mills in West Bengal as on March 31, 1996; and

(b) the total number of cases pending before BIFR both from Textiles and jute units of West Bengal as on March 31, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) As on 31.3.96, total number of jute mills in West Bengal was 59. Besides, 42 Cotton/Man made fibre textile mills in the State were registered with the Office of Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

(b) As reported by the BIFR, from West Bengal 11 cases in jute sector and 2 cases in textile sector were pending with BIFR as on 31.3.96

Seizure of Water Turtles

2708. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs officials at Malda in West Bengal seized some 1,500 fresh-water turtles allegedly being smuggled to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the "invisible hands" behind the turtles smuggling have been identified; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them as also to enquire their end use?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. customs authorities at Mohedipur Land Customs Station in the State of West Bengal seized 1500 fresh water turtles while attempted to be smuggled from India to Bangladesh.

(c) and (d). Two persons found involved have been arrested and prosecution against them has been launched. Further investigations in the matter are in progress. Investigations conducted so far have not revealed involvement of any person other than the two arrested persons. It is learnt that these turtles are used for display in domestic aquariums.

[Translation]

Industrial Growth

2709. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed the target of achieving 7-8 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Production and 12 per cent in Industrial growth;

(b) if so, the measures taken to expand and strengthen the basic infrastructure required for the same;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The common minimum programme envisages GDP growth of 7% per year. Industrial Growth is also proposed to be maintained at 12% per year.

(b) to (d). Development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and communication is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The Government is already considering extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through deregulation of production and distribution. Foreign investment in these sectors is also being encouraged to supplement domestic resources. Union Budget 1996-97 has proposed establishment of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised share capital of Rs.5000 crores to act as a direct lender, as a refinancing institution and as a provider of financial guarantees. To step up investment in infrastructure, a levy of 2% as special custom duty on all imports except those that carry a nil rate of duty or are imported at nil rate of custom duty for export production has also been proposed. Tax concessions have also been extended to infrastructure sector.

Textile Mills in M.P.

2710. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of textiles mills in Madhya Pradesh and the number of mills closed down out of them;

(b) the total number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of these mills;

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take to solve unemployment problem, caused by the closure of these textile mills;

(d) whether the Government propose to sell some of the lands belonging to the closed textile mills to help in re-open the mills; and

(e) if so, the textile mills which have been allowed to sell their lands?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) As on 31.3.96, there were 50 Cotton/Man-made fibre Textile Mills in Madhya Pradesh. Out of these, 9 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were closed in M.P.

(b) The number of workers affected due to closure of 9 mills was 21091.

(c) Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Funds Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers of permanently/partially closed mills.

(d) and (e). The matter comes under the purview of the State Government. In so far as the NTC Mills in M.P. are concerned, the NTC (MP) Ltd. stands referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Government have prepared a rehabilitation package which envisages, inter-alia, raising of funds by sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC Mills. The BIFR is yet to take a final decision in the matter.

[English]

Rejuvenation of Tea Industry in Darjeeling

2711. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the tea planters in Darjeeling for financial help for the rejuvenation of tea industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Darjeeling Planters Association had submitted a memorandum to the Tea Board Seeking financial support for various developmental activities to be undertaken by them. Representatives of the Association have since discussed these issues with the Chairman, Tea Board and they have been advised to submit comprehensive proposals in the matter.

Excise Duty Exemption on Coir Machinery

2712. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the state Government of Kerala for exemption of coir processing machines from excise duty;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken any decision on the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). A request for exempting specified Coir processing

machinery from excise duty, as a support for the modernisation efforts of the Coir industry is under consideration of the Government.

Automotive Plant in A.P.

2713. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any project to Union Government to set up Automotive Plant in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Capital Investment in Heavy Industries

2714. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major portion of the capital invested in the heavy Industries of the country is in the form of foreign debt;

(b) if so, the total investment made in the heavy industries till March, 1996 and the capital amount received in the form of debt from domestic and foreign sources, respectively;

(c) whether several industries among the existing heavy industries have already become sick;

(d) if so, the number thereof; and

(e) the total investment made in these sick industrial units till March, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Heavy industries are set up both in the public and private sectors. Information regarding investment made in heavy industries is not maintained centrally. However, data on industrial investment intentions recorded from 1991-92 (since liberalisation in August, 1991) till 1995-96 (April-March) pertaining to non-small scale units in the organised sector is given below:-

	Proposed Investment
Letter of Intents (LOIs)	Rs. 66,537 crores
Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memoranda (IEMs)	Rs. 4,91,410 crores
Total	Rs. 5,57,947 crores