

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No Sir. However the Export and Import Policy is periodically reviewed for effecting such changes as may be necessary from time to time.

(c) and (d) As part of export promotion efforts, meetings with the Commodity Boards are held periodically to discuss ways and means of strengthening and increasing export performance. Suggestions received from Commodity-Boards with reference to Policy matters are also considered and implemented from time to time.

Industries in J&K

1131. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in Kashmir Valley for setting up of small scale industries and bigger projects for the generation of employment

(b) the number of industries which have been set up and started working during the last three years in the private and public sector, and

(c) the details of industries given subsidy such as industries subsidy, transport subsidy and any other subsidy to generate the industries in Jammu and Kashmir for the last three years?

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

(b) During the last three years the SSI units which have been set up in J & K started working in the State are as under :-

	Private Sector
1993-94	1105 units
1994-95	1085 units
1995-96	1156 units

Two units have been set up in medium-large scale in private sector. No units is reported to have come up during the last three years in the public sector

(c) During the last three years the total amount of subsidy released in favour of SSI units, medium large scale units is as under :-

1993-94	Rs 503.14 lacs
1994-5	Rs 569.51 lacs
1995-96	Rs 833.28 lacs

Out of above Rs 288.54 lacs, Rs 334.79 lacs and Rs.231 lacs constitute transport subsidy for the respective years. Rest are other subsidy given by the State.

Cotton Stock

1132. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of liberal export quota given by the Government for cotton, cotton growers have not been able to dispose of their cotton in the market.

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the huge unsold cotton stock lying with farmers, particularly of short staple varieties, and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to help such cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c). The Cotton Advisory Board in its meeting held on 17.6.96 has estimated the 1995-96 cotton crops size to be 149 lakh bales. Out of this, about 148.38 lakh bales are already reported to have arrived in the market as on 11.7.96

Government have so far released 13.65 lakh bales of cotton for export keeping in view the interests of the cotton growers and consumers

Rural Credit System

1133. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the incidence of over dues in the rural credit system has been increasing over the years.

(b) if so, whether the aforesaid trend has eroded the financial soundness of the system, and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the incidence of overdues in the rural credit system which had increased steeply in 1990-91 has shown a significant declining trend. However, even the existing level of overdues are a matter of concern since they affect the soundness of the credit delivery system.

(c) NABARD has further reported that steps have been taken to improve the recovery performance of the rural credit institutions. These, inter-alia, include :

(i) Banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to strengthen their organisational set up and establish separate recovery cells.

(ii) Legislations have been enacted in 16 States so far on the basis of model bill evolved by

the Talwar Committee for recovering agricultural dues;

- (iii) NABARD has prescribed eligibility criteria for banks to draw refinance against their schematic lending with reference to the recovery performance of the bank; and
- (iv) NABARD has advised Regional Rural Banks and Co-operatives to prepare Development Action Plans to revamp their operations with special attention to recovery aspects.

Closure Notices to Textiles Mills by BIFR

1134 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of textile mills of Madhya Pradesh for which a closure decision was taken by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction during 1992 to 1995;

(b) the number of mills closed during the said period following the above decision;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to revive the closed mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that during 1992-95 it had recommended to the High Court for winding up of the following four sick industrial companies in the textile sector in the state of Madhya Pradesh:

- (i) Shel Sajjan Mills
- (ii) Gwalior Synthetics Ltd.
- (iii) Satal Woollens Pvt. Ltd.
- (iv) Jivajeerao Cotton Mills Ltd.

Subsequently, on appeal with Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR), a scheme for rehabilitation was sanctioned by AAIFR for Shree Sajjan Mills on 29.11.1995.

[English]

Backlog of Reserved Posts

1135. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reserved posts meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Communities have been filled up during the last three years in the Finance Ministry and in the banks;

(b) whether any backlog of posts reserved for them remains still unfilled; and

(c) if so, when that backlog is expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Shortage of Coins

1136. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has brought to the notice of the Government of acute shortage of coins in its offices all over the country; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Coins of different denomination (Rs. 5, 2, 1, 50p, 25p, 10p and 5p) are manufactured in the India Government Mints under the administrative control of this Ministry. The coins are produced keeping in view the demand of the RBI and production capacity of the mints. The temporary shortage of coins is due to the decision of the Government to completely coinise Rs. 5, 2 and 1 in currency notes and consequently increasing demand for coins in the said denominations. The decision to coinise completely Rs. 5, 2, and 1 has been taken in order to increase production of higher denominations of notes, by releasing capacity in the Note Printing Presses. Smaller denomination notes are also subjected to more frequent handling. In the case of notes this leads to much shorter life span. Coinising will lead to a much longer life for these denominations. RBI has also confirmed that there is no dearth of Rs. 5 coins which are being issued freely by the bank officers. However, there was a temporary set back in the supplies of other denomination coins (Rs. 2, 1 and 50p) from the Mints, which has now improved. The Government has already taken steps to increase the availability of coins by modernising three Mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and Hyderabad thus increasing their capacity to produce more coins in the near future.

Patent of Plants/Animals

1137. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a foreign multinational has patented the wound-healing property of Haldi (turmeric);

(b) whether best of Haldi in the world grows in India especially at Meghalaya;

(c) the fallour to this patenting of Haldi;