

(ii) There will be no retrenchment of staff as a result of computerisation.

(iii) Management will not undertake any work study of the sole purpose to declare the staff surplus.

(iv) Subject to possession of requisite professional knowledge and skill and further subject to suitability, preference will be given to willing departmental candidates in selecting computer personnel through administrative procedures and for this purpose, management will try to make suitable arrangements for imparting necessary training.

(c) No, Sir.

Income-Tax Exemption on Gratuity Received by LIC Agents

7152. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a representation from agents of the Life Insurance Corporation demanding income-tax exemption on the gratuity amount to be received by them ; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestion is under examination.

[Translation]

Grant of Loans by Nationalised Banks in Rural Areas

7153. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure governing the grant of loan by nationalised/rural banks in rural areas; and

(b) whether it is proposed to authorise one rural or nationalised banks in each block headquarter for sanctioning loans to facilitate the beneficiaries of I.R.D. Programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Banks have already been advised to take several steps such as simplification of loan application forms and make these forms available in local languages to the intending borrowers, liberalisation of terms and conditions relating to security, margin and repayment period, delegation of adequate discretionary powers to branch managers for the disposal of maximum number of loan applications at the branch level itself within a stipulated time, period, etc.

(b) All banks branches operating in a block are expected to sanction loans under Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Objectives in Setting up of N.T.C.

7154. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the objective with which the National Textile Corporation was set up ;

(b) the returns received by Government from the capital invested in the National Textile Corporation ; and

(c) how Government propose to bring about investments in the working of the mills under the management of the Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) National Textile Corporation was set up with the main objective of managing the affairs of the sick textile mills taken over by

Government, for the expeditious rehabilitation of such undertakings so that such rehabilitation may subservise the interests of the production and distribution, at fair prices, of cheaper varieties of cloth.

(b) There have been no directors' returns to the Government from the capital invested in NTC in view of fact that NTC has been incurring losses. However, NTC mills have contributed over Rs. 300 crores to the Exchequer upto now by way of excise duty and other taxes.

(c) The performance of National Textile Corporation is being reviewed by the Government from time to time and steps taken to improve its performance. Some of the important steps taken/being taken to improve the performance of the mills are as under :—

- (i) arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels;
- (ii) working capital has been replenished to make up for cash losses ;
- (iii) to overcome the power shortage, self generating capacity, has been increased.
- (iv) selective modernisation programme strategies have been adopted for result-oriented gains ;
- (v) cost control methods have been introduced for reduction in cost at all levels.
- (vi) efforts are being made for reducing the non-operational administrative expenses; and
- (vii) workers' participation scheme in the management of the mills is being encouraged.

[English]

China-clay Mines in Orissa

7155. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of china-clay mines located in Mayurbhanj and other districts of Orissa ;

(b) the number of china-clay mines under operation by private mine owners, Orissa Mining Corporation and the National Mineral Development Corporation ;

(c) the names of the private mine-owners given lease of china-clay mines ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Iron-Ore Mines in Orissa

7156. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of iron-ore mines located in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Cuttack and other districts of Orissa ;

(b) the approximate tonnes of iron-ore deposits available in each of these mines;

(c) the number of mines located in Orissa leased to private mine-owners, Orissa Mining Corporation and the National Mineral Development Corporation ;

(d) the number of iron-ore mines in Orissa which have become sick; and

(e) the steps taken for the revival of those sick mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The number of operating mines in different districts of Orissa in case of iron ore is given below district-wise :—