

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) The Government have approved retrenchment of only the departmental labour of FCI working at major ports as imports and exports operations of FCI have shrunk in size considerably.

(b) There will be a saving of about Rs. 23 crores which the Corporation is incurring every year towards payment of wages to this idle labour.

(c) No, Sir, However, the labour will be free to seek employment with other handling agencies at the ports or with Dock Labour Board or elsewhere.

(d) Does not arise.

Procurement of iron ore from Kudremukh

3739. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of iron ore procured by Minerals Metals & Trading Corporation (MMTC) from different iron ore mines in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) whether MMTC has been requested to increase the procurement of iron ore from Kudremukh and other iron ore mines in Karnataka for export purposes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., (MMTC) during the last three years has procured the following quantities of iron ore from mines located in Karnataka State (excluding Kudremukh ore)

Year	Quantity procured (in lakh Metric Tonnes)
1982-83	32.30
1983-84	34.59
1984-85	41.42
1985-86	41.92

(upto January, 1986)

(b) and (c) Export of iron ore concentrates of Kudremukh origin is canalised through Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd., (KIOCL) MMTC does not procure Kudremukh concentrates for export but has assisted in procuring orders for its exports to countries like Japan, Yugoslavia etc.

MMTC, however, produces iron ore from other mines in Karnataka State both from private sector and public sector Corporation viz., National Mineral Development Corporation for export. MMTC has already taken effective steps to increase the procurement by liberalising its procurement policy for saleable grades of iron ore.

[Translation]

Steps to make good the loss due to decline in foreign exchange reserves

3740. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign exchange reserves have declined during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make good the loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Assistance to small scale industries by banks of Orissa

3741. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalised banks help the small scale industries/proposed small industries by advancing loans for purchase of machinery, plant etc. to the proposed/prospective small scale entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details of criteria laid down;

(c) whether there is any restriction such as the small industry is to be registered/unregistered etc.; and

(d) the number of applications received for loan and the number of applicants granted loan (with sanctioned/disbursed amount) bank-wise, in Orissa during the last two years separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks have been advised to grant term loans to small scale industry (SSI) units for acquisition of fixed assets including plant and machinery on concessional terms viz. term loans of not less than 3 years are sanctioned at an annual interest rate of 12.5% in backward areas and 13.5% in other areas.

(b) Reserve Bank of India issues directives from time to time on the rates of interest to be charged by banks for various purposes/sectors of the economy taking into account number of factors such as cost/availability of funds, administrative costs and the emphasis is to be given to certain desired sectors and areas (backward or otherwise).

(c) Reserve Bank of India has advised that registration of a small scale industry is not a pre-requisite for availing of bank credit.

(d) Data on scheduled commercial banks advances to SSI Units in Orissa as furnished by Reserve Bank of India are given below :

Last Friday of December	No. of Accounts	Amount outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)
1981	44092	3994

1982	47051	4722
1983	55270	6415
1984	59051	8606

Closure of bank branches of nationalised banks in Punjab

3742. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to close some branches of nationalised banks in Punjab as these are not being given adequate protection by the local administration; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in Refined oil Prices

3743. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that immediately after the presentation of the budget, the prices of refined oil have shot up;

(b) if so, the increase effected in different varieties of edible oil after the budget;

(c) whether the increase is substantial in some cases; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) There has been some increase in prices of some brands of refined oil.