

Business Cooperation Committee, which took place in New Delhi on 31.3.94. The Committee was formed between FICCI and the Taiwanese CNAIC, both non-official organisations. The two sides issued a Joint Statement underlining the need to tap the scope and potential for increasing trade and investment between the two countries through increased interaction.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. However, the bilateral trade and investment with Taiwan is likely to increase substantially with growing awareness and interaction among the businessmen of the two countries about the trade potential that exists between the two countries.

#### **National Policy on Child Labour**

5522. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implemenent the National Policy on Child Labour projects in Kerala State;

(b) if so, the centres identified for these projects; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c). Kerala has the lowest incidence of child labour compared to other states. The number of child workers in Kerala is 0.76% of its total child population as against the corresponding national figure of 4.26%. Since there are several other States with much higher prevalence of child labour and there has been no project proposal from

the State Government, no need has been so far felt for starting a project under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in Kerala.

[*Translation*]

#### **Customs Duty Reduction**

5523. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision in regard to reduce the generally effective rates of customs duties *ad valorem* being imposed on the luggage of foreign travellers and tourist coming in the country from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total revenue loss assessed due to this duty reduction during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to reduce the general effective rates of customs duties on the baggage of foreign travellers and tourists coming in the country from abroad.

[*English*]

#### **Vacant Post of Chairman in E.C.G.C.**

5524. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (E.C.G.C.) is functioning without a Chairman or Head of the Organisation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Consequent upon superannuation of Shri G. Asvathanarayan as CMD, ECGC on 31st October, 1993, Shri Ashok Jha, Joint Secretary in this Ministry and a part-time official Director on the ECGC Board representing this Ministry, had been appointed to hold additional charge of the post of CMD, ECGC with effect from 1st November, 1993 initially for 3 months which was subsequently extended upon 30th April, 1994 or till a regular successor joins the post, whichever is earlier. Action has already been initiated to fill up the said post on a regular basis.

#### **Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring**

5525. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations of the Committee on Industrial sickness and Corporate Restructuring;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the views expressed by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, trade unions and others on the above recommendations.;

(d) whether the above views were also taken into consideration by the Government before finalisation of the recommendations of the Committee;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). The recommendations of the Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring are under consideration of the Government. The views of various organisations received by Government would be taken into account while finalising the decisions on these recommendations.

#### **Assistance to Exporters form U.S. EXIM Bank**

5526. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exporters have been allowed to opt financial assistance from U.S. Exim Bank;

(b) if so, whether conditions for accepting such assistance have been worked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has reported that it is in the process of setting up a Line of US\$ 15 million from Citibank, New York under the guarantee facility of US Exim Bank. In terms of this, funding will be extended directly by Citibank to Exim Banks for lending to Indian Companies. The credit will be guaranteed by US Exim Bank.