

[Translation]

Air-Conditioned Taxis

1471. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study regarding the structure of taxi and other transport facilities available in the development countries for the benefit of tourists;

(b) the steps, if any, being taken up by the Government to encourage the institutionalised air-conditioned taxis and other vehicles;

(c) whether the era of liberalisation, a liberal licensing policy has been formulated for air-conditioned taxis and other vehicles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Some steps taken to improve tourist transport sector are:

1. To encourage setting up of Rent-A-Car industry under the foreign collaboration scheme of the Secretariat of Industrial Approvals, Ministry of Industry.

2. Approved Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators and hoteliers allowed import of air-conditioned cars/coaches at a concessional rate of customs duty.

3. To facilitate interstate tourist transport in India, tax structure rationalised under the All India Permit for Tourist Transport Operators Amendment Rules, 1993.

However, no study has been conducted regarding the structure of taxi and other transport facilities available in the developed countries.

[English]

Mineral Export from Gujarat

1472. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minerals exported from Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(b) the income earned by the State Government thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for the development of the mining industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The main minerals exported from Gujarat are bauxite and salt. State-wise export statistics are not maintained.

(c) The National Mineral Policy announced in March, 1993 has dereserved all the 13 minerals which were hitherto exclusively reserved for exploitation by the public sector. The minerals so dereserved are iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals.

Consequential amendment in the Mines and Minerals

(Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 have been enacted. Any company registered in India as defined in Sub-Section-I of the Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is eligible for grant of Prospecting Licence and Mining Lease in respect of minerals. More powers have been delegated to State Governments to facilitate mineral development.

These changes have been made to attract private investment both domestic and foreign and latest state of art technology in the mineral sector so as to speed up the pace of mineral development in the country.

[Translation]

Employment

1473. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare the right to employment as a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the necessary legislation will be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Ceiling on Export of Seeds

1474. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed ceiling on the grant of permits for export of some varieties of seeds in 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details of varieties of seeds for which there is a quantitative ceiling with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to liberalise the present policy or undertake a periodic review to eliminate such quantitative ceiling or total ban on export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Certain specified seeds and planting materials featuring at serial No. 20, of Part-II, Chapter XVI, of the Export & Import Policy 1992-97 are restricted items which can be exported only under licence.

Exports of seeds, which are treated as commodities such as HPS groundnut, sesame and safflower are allowed freely, while export of niger seed is canalised through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Export licences were issued for 21,000MTs of castor seed in 1993-94; in 1994-95, such

licenses are proposed to be granted for 25,000 MTs of this commodity. Quantitative ceilings for other oil seeds have also been released as under:

	1993-94	1994-95
Mustard seed and rape seed.	50,000 MT	50,000 MT
Sunflower seed.	50,000 MT	50,000 MT

The restrictions on export have been imposed with a view to meeting domestic requirements. The provisions of the Exim Policy are periodically reviewed.

Revival Package for Sick Units

1475. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of revival package of PCUs are pending for approval owing to Government's non-commitment towards providing necessary funds as "Promoter";

(b) whether the BIFR has taken exception to such role of the Government as "Promoter" in respect of the PSUs referred to BIFR;

(c) whether the BIFR has declined to extend further time to the "Promoter" in respect of Central Public Sector Undertakings on the above account indefinitely; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 31.10.1994, the position of the reference of public sector undertaking (both Central and State) was as under:

	Central	State
1. References registered	51	66
2. Dismissed as non-maintainable	2	21
3. Rehabilitation Schemes approved/sanctioned	4	7
4. Winding-up recommended to the concerned High Courts	3	5
5. Draft schemes circulated	2	5
6. Winding up notice issued	5	8
7. Under inquiry	34	20
8. Stay ordered by Courts	4	—

As per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies

(Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), the BIFR has to explore different alternatives for revival of a sick industrial company before forming an opinion that it is just and equitable that the Company be wound up. BIFR has also to give a reasonable opportunity to all concerned, including the Administrative Ministry/State Government and the sick company, to be heard. Any request received for grant of further time has also to be considered by the BIFR. Further, in the case of certain sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), BIFR has on request granted time to the Administrative Ministry/State Government and the company concerned to give their final views on issues like induction of additional funds and allied matters, which are essential to reach a final decision as to revival or, in the alternative, closure. In some cases of PSUs, BIFR has asked the operating agencies to explore the possibilities of change of management.

Government have set up a Group of Ministers to periodically review the performance of PSUs, particularly sick enterprises. The functions of the Group of Ministers include, *inter-alia*, to consider in respect of cases of sick PSUs referred to the BIFR, the proposed package of relief to be presented to the BIFR and give directions and guidelines to Ministries for taking a stand or making a commitment on behalf of Government of India before the BIFR.

Sick Jute Mills of West Bengal

1476. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal to take over sick jute mills in that State;

(b) if so, the names of such jute mills;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the names of jute mills taken over so far by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government of India has so far taken over six jute mills in the country of which five are in the State of West Bengal, i.e., Alexandra, Khardah, Kinnison, National and Union and one the State of Bihar (RBHM). All these six jute mills have been vested with NOMC in 1980.

Cut in Military Expenditure

1477. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has asked both India and Pakistan to cut military expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and