

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of Textiles (Shri G. Venkat Swamy) :**

(a) and (b) The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI), Bombay had a study conducted in collaboration with the Harvard Business School recently on the strategies required to be adopted by the apparel industry to face the challenges of the post Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) era. The main recommendations of the study on the apparel industry are as follows :

- (i) Government should lift restrictions on firm size, promote consolidation and make investments attractive.
- (ii) Import policies, procedures and customs should be reoriented to facilitate international trade.
- (iii) Strategic warehouses should be promoted to ensure easy availability of inputs and minimise vulnerability to price fluctuations.
- (iv) Large coordinating companies should be created to take advantage of the flexibility in manufacturing and product variety of small producers.
- (v) Strategic acquisition of distribution channels and brand names in Europe and Americas should be promoted.
- (vi) Centres/Institutes for service system reorientation should be created.
- (vii) Banking Sector needs to address the needs of the industry and trade by reorienting administrative policies and procedures towards quick response.
- (viii) Performance rating of exporters and suppliers should be introduced.
- (ix) Proper focus on export promotion activities should be given.
- (x) Quota allocation policy and procedures should be restructured, aiming at the creation of an efficient apparel manufacturing base.
- (xi) Indian ports need to cut down delays in material handling by upgrading systems and in order to attract major shipping lines.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND

**1720. Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri :** Will the **Minister of Labour** be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the Government's directives, the subscriptions received in the provident fund of the employees has to be invested to earn interest;

(b) if so, the manner in which this money is to be invested and the Provident Fund money lying uninvested and unclaimed at present;

(c) whether several complaints have been received from the employees for not giving their provident fund on retirement or on demanding loan in time of need;

(d) if so, the number of cases which have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government of streamline the working of the Provident Fund Organisation?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri P.A. Sangma) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Provident Fund money is being invested in Government securities, in Special Deposit Scheme of the Central Government, in Bonds/Securities of Public Financial Institutions etc. as per the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. The investible funds are continuously invested on day to day basis. As such the question of the Provident Fund money lying uninvested does not arise. As on 31-3-94 an amount of Rs. 72.49 crores was lying unclaimed.

(c) and (d) The claims of the employees for Provident Fund money are settled by various Sub-Regional/Regional Offices set up by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation in different parts of the country. There have been complaints about delay in payment of Provident Fund dues to the employees. However, the information relating to number of such cases is not centrally maintained.

(e) For providing prompt service to the EPF subscribers a massive computerisation programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. A Central Action-Plan has also been formulated to monitor settlement of the claims of the subscribers.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF TOURISM IN ORISSA

**1721. Shri Sarat Pattanayak :** Will the **Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted to the Union Government an action plan for improvement to tourism sector in the State; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

**The Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism (Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad) :** (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa has sent a Tourism Development Plan to the Department of Tourism for perusal.

#### EXTERNAL DEBTS

**1722. Shri Harin Pathak :** Will the **Minister of Finance** be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of external debt against the country as on March 31, 1995 which is to be repaid alongwith interest and the countries from which it was obtained; and

(b) the amount of external financial assistance/grants received by the country during the said period which is

not to be repaid and the countries from which it was obtained?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri Manmohan Singh) :** (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AQUA FARMERS

**1723. Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde :** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recently issued guidelines to the Commercial Banks and financial institutions regarding provision of financial assistance to the Aqua Farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the immediate steps to provide finance to the Aqua Farmers have been taken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri Manmohan Singh) :** (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been extending refinance support for aquaculture schemes. Based inter-alia, on the suggestions put forward at the Aquaculture Consultation Meet organised by NABARD in November 1994, suggestions for formulation/sanctions of brackish water aquaculture schemes have been communicated by NABARD to all the commercial banks/State Governments. The guidelines/safeguards for formulating/appraising Schemes are as under :

- (i) Need for thorough appraisal on the suitability of the project site and design;
- (ii) Semi-intensive farming for farms having water spread area of at least 15 hectares;
- (iii) More detailed appraisal of creek dependent farms having regard to occurrence of disease;
- (iv) Provision of additional loans for reservoirs and sedimentation tanks in aquaculture farm; and
- (v) Financing for aqua-hatchery scheme should be done after a master plan is prepared by the concerned State Governments.

(c) to (e) NABARD has reported that all aquaculture scheme proposals received for refinance support in respect of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Union Territory of Pondicherry have been kept in abeyance till the disposal of a public interest litigation filed in Supreme Court. Further, NABARD has decided not to support such scheme in certain creeks of Nellore, Vishakapatam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh on account of recurrence of diseases. However, proposals from other States are considered for sanction on strict compliance by the borrowing units/State Governments of the conditions stipulated in the environmental notification issued by Government of India.

#### POWERLOOM COMMISSIONER

**1724. Shri Rajendra Agnihotri :** Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint a Commissioner for powerloom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

**The Minister of Textiles (Shri G. Venkat Swamy) :** (a) to (c) Yes Sir, there is a proposal to appoint a Commissioner for powerlooms to address the problems of the decentralised sector on a full time basis. A decision on this would require concurrence of concerned Ministries.

#### GUNNY BAGS

**1725. Dr. P. R. Gangwar :** Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the use of synthetic fibre in manufacture of gunny bags; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Textiles (Shri G. Venkat Swamy) :** (a) and (b) No Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

#### UNEMPLOYED IN GUJARAT

**1726. Shri Harisinh Chavda :** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) the number of job-less persons registered with various employment exchanges in the State of Gujarat so far;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide employment to these persons in the near future;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide special grants to the States to give unemployment allowance to the jobless youths of the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri P. A. Sangma) :** (a) 8.98 lakh job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, are registered with various employment exchanges in the State of Gujarat as on 31st May, 1995.

(b) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages a strategy for achieving the goal of near full employment situation in the country as a whole by the year 2002. This goal is sought to be achieved by accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities on the basis of faster growth of employment-intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. The action taken by the Government of Gujarat in creating