

(d) No, Sir.

(e). In order to meet the demand of hank yarn for handloom sector and to ensure stability in its prices it is not possible to relax the stipulation laid down by the Government of India on the Packing of hank yarn by spinning mills including cooperative spinning mills.

Schemes For NRIs

3298. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has constructed a working group to analyse into the various schemes and incentives provided to Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the working group is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Working Group was set up by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 14.10.1994 with representations from RBI and Government. The Working Group was constituted to review the various Schemes and incentives available to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) for investment in India, the operative procedures and to recommend modification/amendment to the schemes and procedures as considered necessary, to the Government of India.

(c) The Working Group has submitted their recommendations to the RBI in May, 1995.

[Translation]

Mine Accidents

3299. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents occurred in various mines in the country mine-wise and the number of persons injured and the number of those who died therein so far during the year 1994-95; and

(b) the remedial steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) The number of accidents which occurred in various coal mines and non-coal mines and the number of persons injured died therein are as under :-

	Number of		Persons	
	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Injured
Coal Mines	142	760	169	822
Non-Coal Mines	67	2671	98	283

Provisional

(b) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder. These Laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. During the year 1990, the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, were comprehensively amended. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the managements for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions, and take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as :

- Holding of conferences on Safety in Mines;
- Self regulation by managements;
- Workers' participation in safety management;
- Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels;
- Training of workpersons;
- Observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns;
- National Safety Awards.

[English]

Exemption of Excise Duty to Paper Industries

3300. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had provided an exemption in excise duty for 10 years to the industrial units set up for manufacture of paper from sugarcane bagasse (from sugar factories) in the past;

(b) if so, the number of such paper units set up and provided exemption in excise duty till 1994;

(c) whether the requests for excise duty exemption for setting up of units to manufacture bagasse-based durable particle board are pending consideration;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a). Writing and printing paper containing not less than 75% by weight of pulp made from bagasse was exempt from excise duty from 8.12.80 to 28.2.94. A similar exemption was enjoyed by uncoated kraft paper from 8.7.81 to 28.2.94.

(b). Such information is not maintained. However, it is reported that more than 300 units were availing full