

1		2	3	4
Production (Rs. lakhs)	42,97,205	7.38	Gross Value Added/ Employment (Rs. '000)	30.14
Employment (Nos.)	36,65,810	6.29	Net Value Added Employment (Rs. '000)	27.99
Capacity Utili- sation	50.60%	..	Wages Paid/Employment (Rs. '000)	6.27
Value of Exports (Rs. lakhs)	2,49,902			
Total Products manu- factured (Nos.)	7449			
Leading Reserved Products manufactured (Nos.)	843			

Import of Rice

630. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted to import the rice during the current year as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated May 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of rice likely to be imported during the current financial year;

(d) the impact of this import on the prices of rice in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Import of common/coarse varieties of rice and rice with 50% or more broken has been permitted freely after review of the emerging trends in supply and stock of rice by the Government with effect from 27.5.97.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to accurately estimate the quantum of imports as they would depend upon the prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets, demand and supply of different varieties traded, variation in quality and other terms of trade.

(e) Some of the measures taken to increase production and productivity of rice are the implementation of the following Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes:-

(1) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice)-assistance is being provided to the farmers for the use of certified seeds of high yielding varieties and improved farm implements including sprinkler sets and power tillers. Besides, assistance is also provided for encouraging the use of green manure and soil ameliorants.

(2) Central Sector Rice Seed Minikit Programme including propagation of improved crop production technology-seed minikits of Rice are provided to the farmers at nominal cost for propagation of new varieties with biotic and abiotic resistance and also for organising training by the Agricultural Universities/ICAR Research Institutions to the State/District Level Agriculture Officers for dissemination of improved crop production technology.

VRS for Textiles Workers of Maharashtra

631. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Maharashtra Government regarding Voluntary Retirement Scheme for workers/staff in the mills run by Maharashtra State Textile Corporation and Textile Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for early approval of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested

for assistance of Rs. 74.83 crores from the National Renewal Fund for payment of Gratuity and compensation under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the staff of the Maharashtra State Textile Corporation Ltd. and the Textile Corporation of Marathwada Ltd. However, assistance from the National Renewal Fund is provided for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings and counselling/retraining/redeployment of rationalised workers only.

N.P.A. Due to Industrial Houses

632. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan amounting to thousands of crores of rupees advanced by public sector banks and financial institutions are classified as bad and doubtful debts;

(b) if so, whether a substantial portion of these non-performing assets have been given to industrial houses;

(c) if so, whether these industrial houses had managed to secure these loans deposit their (earlier) doubtful loans written off as bad debts;

(d) if so, whether some bank officials have been found to be not following the laid down guidelines in advancing loans to these industrial houses during the last five years;

(e) if so, action taken or proposed to be taken against them, and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to minimise the details of amount of bad and doubtful debts in public sector banks and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Public sector banks classify advances into performing (standard) and non-performing (NPAs) categories bases on the record of recovery. The NPAs are further classified into the following depending upon a number of sectors including the age of NPA and the realisability of asset:

1. Substandard
2. Doubtful
3. Loss assets.

(b) The present data base of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate specific information relating to credit to industrial houses.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The following steps have been taken by RBI with a view to reduce NPAs in public sector banks;

1. RBI has advised banks to have documents of loan recovery policy prepared and duly vetted by Board of Directors. The policy prescribes the manner of recovery

of dues, targetted level of reduction, norms for permitted sacrifices/waiver etc.

2. Reduction of NPAs through compromise/write-offs, through negotiated settlements to ensure maximum recovery at minimum expense.

3. Two banks have been permitted to set up settlement Advisory Committees headed by a retired Judge of High Court to scrutinise compromise proposals and make objective recommendations.

4. Setting up of Recovery Cells at Head Quarter and fixing of branchwise targets for reduction in NPAs. Performance of branches in recovery to be monitored by Head Quarter on monthly basis and Board of Directors kept informed of the progress of quarterly basis. RBI also monitors reduction of NPAs.

5. Setting up of Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chennai, Guwahati and Patna and an Appellate Tribunal in Mumbai.

6. Compilation and circulation of list of defaulters suit filed accounts.

7. Review of top 300 NPAs of public sector banks with special reference to the system prevailing in the banks to fix staff accountability.

Abid Hussain Committee

633. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee implemented so far;

(b) whether small scale industries association have represented against its implementation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government have taken action of the following recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee on Small Enterprises:-

1. Raising of Investment Limit:

Government have taken a decision to raise the investment limit on plant and machinery for the small scale/ ancillary units from Rs. 60/75 lakhs to Rs. 300 lakhs as recommended by the Committee. The draft notification in this regard, has been laid on the Table of the Parliament on 20/21 March, 1997. the notification will be issued on the expiry of the 30 sitting days of the Parliament.

2. Credit Needs of the Tiny Enterprises:

Government have decided to earmark a minimum of sixty per cent of the priority sector lending allocated to the small scale sector for the tiny sector.

(b) and (c) Government have received representations