

had sufficient flexibility to meet the requirements according to national priorities. It was also explained that the foreign investment policy of India formed a part of and also reflected the industrial, economic and social policy of the country. The Indian side further made it clear that India's policy was non-discriminatory and provided favourable environment to the foreign investors to operate.

Overbridge at Bharuch Station

7879. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an overbridge near Bharuch railway station on Western Railway;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Railway can take up the work, only after the State Government sanctions its portion of expenditure for the work.

[English]

Promotion of Coir Industry

7880. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote coir industry in Kerala;

(b) the welfare measures taken for the coir workers; and

(c) the assistances given to Kerala Government for the modernisation of coir

industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Following programmes, Financial Assistance, Technical Support, Training and Extension facilities have been extended by the Coir Board/Govt. for promoting the development of the coir industry in Kerala:

1. Central Scheme of Cooperativisation.
2. Rebate Scheme for Market Development.
3. Cash Compensatory Support on Exports.
4. Foreign Publicity Programmes and Market Development Missions under ITC/SIDA project.
5. Assistance to organised sector for Construction/Renovation of Workshops.
6. Research and Development Programmes for Improving Productivity, Upgrading Quality and Improving Skills of Coir Workers.
7. Collection and Compilation of Statistics relating to Coir Industry in Kerala.

(b) the welfare measure taken for the coir workers of Kerala are:

1. Model Coir Village Scheme is being implemented in 53 villages of Kerala at a cost of Rs. 140 lakhs approximately, wholly funded by the Central Government. The Scheme includes provision of houses of SC/ST coir