

and the expenditure in foreign exchange incurred thereon;

(d) whether some trading/export houses have sold these cars, imported for their official use, in the market; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Para 217 (e) & (f) of the Handbook of Procedures, 1992—97 (Revised Edition : March, 94) Vol-I provides for import of Cars by Export/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House as one time facility functional for their use against their own Special Import Licences. Such import of cars shall be with actual user condition and subject to normal customs duty to be paid in free foreign exchange out of status holder's Exchange Earnings Foreign Currency Account.

(c) No separate category-wise import data is maintained.

(d) No complaint has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Irregularities In F.C.N.R. Accounts**

1050. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the irregularities in the operation of the Foreign Currency (Non-resident) Accounts operated by banks that have come to light impelling the Reserve Bank of India to order a special audit;

(b) the period over which such irregularities have been committed and the total loss of foreign to the country as a result thereof; and

(c) the number and names of foreign banks involved in irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). A special audit has been instituted by the Reserve Bank of India to reconcile the books of the Reserve Bank of India and the authorised dealers handling foreign currency non-resident accounts transactions in order to locate any discrepancies in interest claims and purchases made by the authorised dealers from the Reserve Bank of India with reference to the exchange rate at which the principal deposit was sold to the Reserve Bank of India. The auditors have been advised to cover a period of four years from April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1994. The irregularities in individual banks and the loss in foreign exchange to the country, if any, would be known only after the special audits are completed.

#### **Export of Software**

1051. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to increase the export of software;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the export performance of software during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and

(b). Yes, Sir. In addition to efforts aimed at increasing exports to USA, Canada and West Europe, to which the bulk of our software and services exports take place, the possibilities of increasing the export of software to selected markets such as Japan, Netherlands, Denmark and Australia are being explored. Contacts have been established with the trade promotion agencies in these countries. Experts from concerned organisations have been invited to meet software companies in India and identify areas of trade and for tie-ups. Delegations of Indian software companies have been sent to these markets and they are being encouraged to participate in specialised trade fairs.

(c) The export performance of software including services during the last three years is as under:-

| Year    | Rs. in crores |
|---------|---------------|
| 1991-92 | 508.00        |
| 1992-93 | 740.00        |
| 1993-94 | 1020.00       |

Source : Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council

### Colliery Accidents

1052. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH  
DRONA:  
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of tragic coal mine accidents in Asansol recently;

(b) if so, the number of coal workers who lost their lives and compensation paid to legal heirs of deceased;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted to probe the tragic coal mine accidents;

(d) if so, the composition and terms of the Committees; and

(e) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the year 1994 (upto June 1994) a total of 71 coal mines workers lost their lives in 14 fatal accidents in the mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Payment of compensation by the management to the next of kin of the deceased is regulated under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 which is administered by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Information on this aspect is not maintained by the Ministry of Labour.

(c) to (e). Yes. A Court of Inquiry has been appointed by the Ministry of Labour in respect of the mine accident that occurred on 25.1.94 at New Kenda Colliery of Eastern Coalfields Limited in which 55 persons were killed.

The Court of Inquiry which is headed by Justice Shamsuddin Ahmed, formerly Judge of the Calcutta High Court has been asked to inquire into the causes of and circumstances attending the accidents and present a rep within three months. Prof. A.K. Ghose, the then Director, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and Shri B.N. Tiwari, General Secretary, Colliery azdoor Sabha (AITUC), Asansol have been appointed as assessors in holding the inquiry.