

While Public Sector Banks have to ensure that they earn profits on their operations, they are primarily required to sub-serve the interests of national banking policies which aim at increased lending to priority sectors, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other Weaker Sections of the society at concessional rates of interest. These banks are also required to assist the sick units at concessional rates of interest. Besides, advances for food procurement through Government agencies and investments in Government Securities also affect their profitability.

Public Sector Banks are also required to open a large number of branches in backward areas which take a longer period of gestation to break even. The obligations of foreign banks operating in India in such matters are limited.

#### Export of Cotton

3672. SHRI ANAND SINGH :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to start the export of cotton ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the quality and quantum of cotton to be exported during the ensuing years ; and

(c) the extent of export earnings expected and how it would affect the indigenous industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. Decisions with regard to export of cotton are taken from time to time after verifying demand and supply position of cotton in the country and the prevailing price trend. During the current cotton year a quantity of 1.95 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton has been released for export so far.

(c) It is difficult to estimate precisely the possible export earnings before the quantities are actually exported as various varieties are allowed and exchange rates are subject to fluctuation. Only those varieties/quantities of cotton are allowed for export

which are considered surplus to our domestic requirements. As such the exports of cotton permitted by the Government of India are not likely to have any adverse effect on the indigenous industry.

#### Proposal to Divide Western Coalfields

3673. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN :  
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was or is any proposal under consideration of Government regarding the division of the Western Coalfields into two—Western with headquarters at Nagpur and the Central India with headquarters at Bilaspur ; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b) : No decision has been taken in regard to the proposal for division of Western Coalfields Limited into two Companies.

#### Export of Turmeric and Setting up of a Turmeric Board.

3674. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of turmeric exported to different countries from India in 1982-83 and 1983-84;

(b) the quantity of turmeric produced in the country during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84; and

(c) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to set up Turmeric Board on the lines of Coffee and Tea Boards for development, regulation of production and export of turmeric ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) The quantity and value of export of Turmeric and the production of Turmeric in 1982-83 and 1983-84 are given below :