

(a) the number of hard coke oven and plants in the country as on 1982-83 and the quantum of coal required for production of hard coke at that time;

(b) the number of oven and plants in working condition at present alongwith the quantum of coal required for production of hard coke;

(c) the number of employees working in these oven and plants during 1982-83 and number of these workers at present;

(d) whether many employees who were working in those oven and plants have now been engaged in other works; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the work in which they have been engaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The management Information System maintained by coal companies does not give information on the number of hard coke ovens and plants in the country in 1982-83 or the quantum of coal required by them in that year.

(b) As per the information made available by Coal India Limited, currently 176 such plants are drawing raw coal from CIL sources. The monthly requirement of these plants is around 4 lakh tonnes.

(c) to (e). The coal companies do not have any information on the number of employees working in various hard coke ovens in the country in 1982-83 or even at present. Presently more than 176 coke oven units are operational in the small and medium sectors spread over the length and breadth of the country. The coal companies do not maintain any information of the employees of these coke oven plants.

[English]

#### **Recurring Deposits in Post Offices**

4449. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total arrears to be paid as Commission to the Recurrent Deposit (RD) Collectors of Post Office, State-wise as on date; and

(b) the measures which have been taken by the Government to clear the arrears at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total arrears to be paid as Commission to the Recurring Deposit Collectors (MPKBY Agents) to the Post Office, State-wise, are given in the attached statement.

(b) The measures taken by the Government to clear the arrears include:

(i) Authorising the Regional Directors to issue outstation cheques upto Rs. 5000/- to the Agents; instead of the earlier practice of issuing Bank Drafts.

(ii) Issuance of a set of guidelines by the National Savings Commissioner to all the Regional Directors to ensure quick payment within a maximum period of 8 weeks.

(iii) Conducting of one day Orientation Training Programme for MPKBY Agents throughout the country to ensure expeditious processing of payment of Commission claims and to motivate them. The Programme was successfully conducted on 2.9.1995 in all the Regional Director's and Deputy Regional Directors' Head Quarters throughout the country.

#### **STATEMENT**

(In lakhs of Rs.)

S.No.	Name of State	Commission amounts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	380
2.	Assam	29
3.	Bihar	6
4.	Delhi	62
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	213
7.	Haryana	69
8.	Himachal Pradesh	26
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.
10.	Karnataka	9
11.	Kerala	203
12.	Madhya Pradesh	85
13.	Maharashtra	437
14.	Orissa	5

S.No.	Name of State	Commission amounts
15.	Punjab	75
16.	Tamil Nadu	20
17.	Tripura	9
18.	Manipur	N.A.
19.	Rajasthan	511
20.	Meghalaya	N.A.
21.	Uttar Pradesh	18
22.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	8
Total		2166 (apprx.)

#### Central Excise on Rosin

4450. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:  
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY:  
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imposition of Central Excise duty on rosin units for cottage and small scale units operating without power is effecting over large number of workers in the States of J & K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and U.P.;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received representation to this effect from various organisations;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to the various observations/points made therein; and

(d) the amount of Central excise collected from aforesaid SSI units after imposition of central excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Exemption from central excise duty on rosin, manufactured without the aid of power, was withdrawn in the budget for the year 1994-95 and duty at the rate of 20% was levied on such rosin. Government have received representations stating that the withdrawal of excise duty exemption on rosin manufactured without the aid of power has created adverse impact on such units. These are under consideration.

(d) The duty collected (provisional) from units manufacturing rosin without the aid of power during the period 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given below:

1994-95 Rs. 1.20 crore

1995-96 Rs. 1.07 crore

#### Import Duty on Crude Oil

4451. SHRI K.S. RAYADU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petroleum and Natural Gas Authorities and Indian Oil Corporation have approached for a further cut in crude oil import duties to reduce the cost of importing crudes; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have suggested to consider reduction of import duty on Petroleum Products. The suggestion is under examination.

#### Promotion of Exports in Computer and Software

4452. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Government organisation exists to promote exports to developed countries in the field of computer and software including data processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c). The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council Promotes exports in the field of electronics and computer software. The Council is a non-profit organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act.

[Translation]

#### Demand/Supply of Paper

4453. SHRI SOHAN BEER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual demand and availability of paper in the country;

(b) the details of paper mills set up in the country and their annual production capacity thereof, separately, State-wise;

(c) whether the raw material required for the production of paper is available in adequate quantities in the country;