

(d) whether private companies, Indian and foreign are patenting countless number of plants and animals in India:

(e) whether the country has an inventory of its plants and animals:

(f) whether there is an intellectual property rights control regime in India; and

(g) if so, since when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the Patents Act, 1970, such patents cannot be granted in India. However, it is reported that a patent has been granted in USA for a method of promoting healing of a wound by administering turmeric powder to a patient afflicted with the wound

(b) As per market preference, the Haldi produced in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are preferred. Meghalaya also produced good quality Haldi.

(c) The patent granted in U.S.A. is valid in that country and does not have any legal effect in India.

(d) According to the provisions of the Patents Act 1970, plants and animals are not patentable in India.

(e) The Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India are responsible for the survey and inventorisation of the flora and fauna of the country respectively. Approximately 70% of the geographical area of the country has been surveyed and 45,000 plant species and 81,000 animal species have been recorded.

(f) and (g). In India, the intellectual property rights are regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970 Trade & Merchandise Marks Act, 1958, Designs Act, 1911 and Copy-right Act, 1957.

Decanalised Items and Financial Position of MMTC Ltd.

1138 SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. is continuing to import and sell which were also the decanalised items in the free market canalised earlier through it.

(b) if so, the total quantity with its value of such items imported and sold during each of the last three years, item-wise; and

(c) the gross profits/loss attributed by MMTC Ltd. during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Most of the items import of which was earlier canalised through MMTC, continue to be handled even now by MMTC.

(b) Details of such items imported and sold by MMTC during the last three years item-wise are given in statement is attached below.

STATEMENT

Items	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96 (P)	
	Qty	Val.	Qty	Val.	Qty	Val.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NON-FERROUS METALS						
Copper	16	116.0	22	201.7	24	303.2
Zinc	8	34.5	12	56.8	18	83.5
Lead	3	7.9	3	10.7	2	6.7
Nickel	2	47.0	3	78.5	4	127.4
Tin	1	18.6	1	29.5	1	41.7
Aluminium	-	-	4	26.3	12	83.8
Platinum/Palladium	-	-	-	-	negl	1.4
INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS						
Asbestos	3	6.3	3	5.6	2	4.0
Antimony Metal	-	-	-	1.4	-	1.8
Steel	18	19.3	25	26.1	-	-

Qty. : '000 Tonnes
Val. Rs Crores

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
FERTILIZER/FERTILIZER RAW MATERIALS						
Dap	-	14.2	17	13.4	75	65.9
Sulphur	145	29.9	234	66.4	203	67.3
Rock Phosphate	103	23.4	26	4.8	6	1.2
Mop	-	31.1	15	5.0	138	54.6
Total		348.2		526.2		842.5

P-Provisional

Source : MMTC

(c) The gross profit of MMTC during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Gross Profit
1993-94	88.01
1994-95	113.46
1995-96 (P)	112.83

P-Provisional

Non-Banking Financial Companies

1139. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently set up a panel of Experts for controlling the functioning of Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps proposed to be taken for effective control of NBFCs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that an Expert Group, under the Chairmanship of Shri P.R. Khanna, Chartered Accountant and member of the Advisory Council to the Board for Financial Supervision, was constituted by it to design a supervisory framework for the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

(c) Proposals have been initiated to regulate the activities of NBFCs more effectively.

Scooters India Ltd.

1140. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scooters India Ltd. (SIL) is likely to tie up soon with one of the Italy based auto major for supply of three and four wheeler engines and transfer

of technology thereon as part of its diversification plans, and

(b) if so, the stage at which the finalisation of the technical and financial tie-up stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Scooters India Limited (SIL) is exploring the possibility of transfer of technology of diesel engines and four-stroke petrol engines for its three-wheelers. However, no tie-up has been finalised.

Supply of Coal

1141. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government to provide additional coal supplies to the extent of 3.5 million tonnes per month;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the request of Andhra Pradesh to increase the coal supply;

(c) if so, the quantum of the coal supply increased from September 1995 onward.

(d) to what extent the requirements of the coal in thermal stations in A.P. have been met; and

(e) the reasons for not supplying the sufficient coal to these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However a note dated 10th September, 1995 was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking an increase of 3.5 lakh tonnes per month of coal supply for the quarter October-December, 1995 to the power stations of APSEB.

(b) to (e). The long-term linkages accorded to 5 power stations of APSEB are for supply of 11.68 million tonnes of coal per annum. This calls for an average supply of 9.7 lakh tonnes of coal per month. However, keeping in view the request made by Government of