

rupees one crore to the National Textile Corporation has recently been detected ;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of this racket and the details of outcome of the investigation made into the matter ;

(c) the appropriate action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty persons ; and

(d) the preventive measure being taken to avoid recurrence of such losses ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). The Central Bureau of Investigation, Ahmedabad, has registered a case for investigation involving an award of contract of coal handling at higher rate than the market rate. As per First Information Report, this has caused loss to NTC (Gujarat). Further action will depend on the investigation report from the CBI.

(d) NTC (Holding Company) has issued instructions for appointment of coal handling agents. These include open advertisement in the national newspapers for ensuring competitive rates and effective competition.

Venture Capital Funds

10967. DR. B. L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to establish venture capital funds in the private sector ;

(b) if so, its broad features ; and

(c) its impact on the funding by the public sector financial institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The broad features of the venture capital funds in the private sector and the impact on the funding by the public sector financial institutions can be

known only after a decision is taken on the proposal.

Export Trend of Black Pepper

10968. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export demand of black pepper has slackened during 1987-88;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the details of demand of black pepper made by United States, U.S.S.R. and other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The provisional estimates of export of black pepper during 1987-88 compared to 1986-87 to USA, USSR and other countries is as follows :—

(Qty. in MT)

	1987-88	1986-87
USA	6798	15091
USSR	17585	9468
Other countries	14957	12524
Total :	39340	37083

Exports to USA have declined primarily on account of automatic detention of pepper imported from India by the US.

Setting up of Security Printing Press with Mint

10969. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some security printing press with a mint ;