

[Translation]

Foreign Investment

4501. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of liberalisation and opening the door for foreign investment the various State Governments had gone abroad to invite foreign investment; and

(b) the details of States which got success in this regard and the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per information available with the Ministry, delegations from various State Governments have gone abroad for purposes of attracting foreign direct investment in the State.

(b) The details of success by various State Governments in this regard and the inflow of foreign direct investment as a result of such foreign visits is not separately maintained by this Ministry.

[English]

Supply of Coal by C.I.L.

4502. SHRI B. DHARMABIKSHAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. is capable to meet the requirement of coal to the cement and steel industries;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for adequate supply of coal to those industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c). There is a gap between demand and availability of coking coal required for metallurgical purpose including that of the steel sector. Domestic production of coking coal of the quality required for the metallurgical use is not adequate to meet the domestic demand and this gap has to be bridged by imports. Some import of superior grade of coking coal is also necessitated for blending purposes on quality considerations.

Modernisation of existing washeries as well as construction of new washeries is being taken up to augment availability of indigenous coking coal supplies to steel plants.

As a result of the higher priority given for supply of coal to the power sector and as a result of transport constraints, supplies of coal to the industrial consumers including that to cement plants has been affected.

Coal companies are, however, endeavouring to meet the requirements of all consumers in the country including cement plants by increasing production of coal. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Scheme (LSS) under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirement of linkages/sponsorship. Option of import of coal is also available. Cement plants are also allowed to take up mining for coal for their captive consumption.

Export and Import Growth of STC/MMTC

4503. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export and import growth of State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the working and profitability of State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. is far from satisfaction;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) and the State Trading Corporation (STC);

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make MMTC and STC economically viable and profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLABULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The export and import effected by State Trading Corporation (STC) and the MMTC Ltd. during each of the last three years is as follows:-

Year	MMTC		STC	
	Export	Import	Export	Import
1993-94	1371.3	1699.3	798	239
1994-95	1368.3	3662.1	806	965
1995-96(P)	1320.0	4390.0	749	858

(b) and (c). The working and profitability of STC/MMTC is satisfactory. Despite decanalisation of some major items, increase in global competition, STC and MMTC have diversified their activities and increase their non canalised

turnover. Both the Corporation have earned profits and paid dividends to the Government.

(d) to (f). Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items, Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient STC/MMTC in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and a competitive environment. STC/MMTC are diversifying their operations through:

- increased emphasis on direct buying and selling,
- strengthening their overseas marketing network;
- entering into joint ventures;
- undertaking open general licence (OGL) imports;
- expanding domestic trading.

Supply of Coal

4504. SHRI DARBARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of industries in Punjab are at the verge of closure due to non supply of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons for which Union Government not supplying coal to such industries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to supply adequate coal to such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b). No report has been received that industries in Punjab are on the verge of closure due to non-supply of coal.

However, as a result of a higher priority given for supply of coal to the power sector, and as a result of a sharp increase in the demand of coal from this sector, supplies of coal to the industrial consumers has been affected. The total supplies to consumers other than the power sector in Punjab which was 10.47 lakh tonnes (provisional) in 1994-95 has gone down to 6.85 lakh tonnes (provisional) in 1995-96. The total despatch to all the consumers including that of the power sector in Punjab has, in 1995-96 however, increased to 70.68 lakh tonnes (provisional) as against the despatches of 69.16 lakh tonnes (provisional) in 1994-95.

(c) Coal companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Punjab by increasing production of coal. In addition, coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Scheme under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships.

Preparation of Bank Drafts by S.B.I.

4505. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: (a) Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India is facing acute shortage of Bank drafts containing denomination of series amounting from Rs. 1000, to Rs. 9,999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether customers are being forced to get their drafts prepared from other banks; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial steps taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that there is no acute shortage of TT series Bank drafts (denomination Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 9999/-) as their branches store adequate number of blank draft forms. SBI have further reported that whenever there is a certain spurt of demand of drafts in any area/pocket immediate arrangement is made by them to ensure supply of adequate quantities of drafts to the concerned Circle Stationery Department who are the agency for control and distribution of security forms to the branches under each Local Head Office.

(c) No such specific report is available in this regard with S.B.I.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Investment in India by UNIDO

4506. DR M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new programmes launched by United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to promote foreign investment in India; and

(b) the extent to which it is likely to help small and medium enterprises in locating their right partner for investment and joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). With the assistance of Ministry of Industry, Government of India, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has recently launched a new programme called "Investment & Technology Promotion Initiative" (ITPI). Under this programme, a separate ITPI Office will be set up at New Delhi under the supervision of UNIDO Country Director to undertake certain activities with a view to achieving the following objectives: