

interest of the industry and the public interest. Public Financial Institutions also give financial assistance to sick industrial units. For instance, the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India Ltd., have disbursed financial assistance to 82 units amounting to Rs 3986.42 lakhs as on 31st December 1977. The employment involved in these units is 83,165. The Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India's efforts have helped 33 units in reviving their operations. Units belonging to Cement, Sugar, Cotton Textiles, Jute and certain Engineering Industries, in which the incidence of sickness is particularly high on account of old and outmoded equipment, get loans on liberal terms under the soft loan scheme which is being implemented by IDBI, ICICI and IFCL.

(c) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India have set up a monitoring cell to detect sickness at the incipient stage so that remedial steps are taken in time. It is expected that as a result of the efforts made by the Reserve Bank of India, the closure of industrial units and the consequent losses will be reduced. The question of evolving an appropriate institutional mechanism for detecting sickness at the incipient stage would be a relevant factor in the formulation of a comprehensive policy of industrial sickness which is under Government's consideration.

#### Exploration of Coal areas

6573 SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that vast areas in the coal belts and outside are lying untapped; and

(b) if so, steps being taken for exploration in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Total reserves of coal in the country are estimated to be over 82,000 million tonnes. While drawing up the plan for production, attempts are made to match the coal

production target with the demand for coal in the country. The coal exploration programme for meeting the needs of the production plan for the period 1978-83 has nearly been completed. It has also been planned that exploration and drilling required for coal production in 1982-83 is completed seven years in advance of that year. The programme of exploration relating to coal production is a continuing process and gradually other coal bearing areas in the country will also be taken up.

#### Request for Import of Raw Jute by Jute Balers Association

6574. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether Jute Balers Association has requested the centre to allow imports of raw jute to the trade instead of canalising it through the Jute Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the import policy for 1978-79, imports of raw jute have been placed under Open General Licence for actual users (industrial).

#### Study Team to Study problems of Handloom Industry

6575. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study team has been appointed to study the problems of the handloom industry;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of the said team; and

(c) by when the report is likely to be submitted by the study team to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) Recently no