

Export of Electronics and Software Items

5632. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the export of Electronics and Software items during Eighth Plan and the achievement made thereunder till date;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to increase the export of electronics and software goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The overall target of export growth was set at 13.6% in real terms for the Eighth Plan. The export projection for engineering items was 15% however, no separate projections were made for electronics and software items. The export details of Electronics and Software items during Eighth Plan period are given below

	Achievement till June, 1996 (US \$ million)
Electronic goods	2025.59
Software	3087.81
Total	5113.40

Source : Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. There is vast scope to increase the export of electronics and software goods. For the year 1995-96 the share of electronics and computer software and services in India's total exports is estimated at 6% and it is expected that our strengths in the software sector, in particular, will contribute to increasing the share of this sector in our overall export basket. Steps to boost the exports of these products include participation in exclusive Indian electronics and software shows, and in international exhibitions, and conduct of market surveys, etc., through the aegis of the Electronics and Software Export Promotion Council. Besides export production is promoted through the scheme of Electronic Hardware Technology Parks (EHIP) Scheme and Software Technology Parks (STP) duty free import of raw materials/capital goods, assistance under Market Development Funds, etc.

Pending Demands of Bank Employees

5633. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demands of Bank employees are pending before Government for a long time, and

(b) if so, the details of their pending demands as on date and the reaction of the Government on each of the demands ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that the wages of the workmen staff in the banking industry were revised by a settlement with the workmen unions on 14th February, 1995. However, the workmen unions later raised a dispute alleging that the officers were given a better pay package compared to award staff employees. A Fact Finding Committee was appointed by IBA to find out the facts relating to the dispute, which submitted its Report on 3.5.1996. The unions are also demanding for settlement of certain residual issues and revision of limits for housing loan, vehicle loan, etc. Efforts are afoot by IBA to arrive at a solution and several rounds of discussions have already been held by them with the workmen unions to resolve the issues.

Resident Director of MPEDA Office in New York, USA

5634. SHRI P. C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for inordinate delay in filling up of the key post of Resident Director of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Office in New York, USA;

(b) the decision taken by his Ministry earlier in the matter;

(c) whether this post is being filled up by a civil servant who has no knowledge of fisheries and marine products exports;

(d) whether the MPEDA Officers Association has represented against this move;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to review the matter on the basis of the recommendations of MPEDA;

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The requirements of adhering to the prescribed procedures as determined by the Department of Personnel & Training in the Government of India for filling up the post of Resident Director in the Trade Promotion Office of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in New York, had to be fulfilled. The steps involved the circulation of the post, re-advertisement if needed, convening meetings of the Selection Committee/Civil Services Board etc.

(b) A panel of 3 officers drawn from MPEDA, along with other Ministries/Department was sent to the Department of Personnel and Training of the Government of India.

(c) The Government of India is yet to take a final decision in the matter of selection. However, Civil servants are also entitled to be recruitment rules for the post.

(d) MPEDA's Officers Association has demanded that the post of Resident Director in New York office should go to an MPEDA employee.

(e) and (f). The decision of the Government will be based on the factors of suitability and within the ambit of the eligibility criteria prescribed under the recruitment rules.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Revival of Small Scale Industries in Bihar

5635. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to promote Small Scale Industries under the minimum common programme; and

(b) if so, the details of the SSIs proposed to be revived in each State particularly in Bihar under the above programme, alongwith their locations ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Promotion of small scale industries is a part of the minimum common programme of the Government.

(b) As per the data collected by Reserve Bank of India from the Scheduled Commercial Banks, total number of sick small scale units as at the end of March 1995 were 2,68,815. Of these, 15,539 units were considered as potentially viable. Banks have put 10,371 viable units under nursing. There were 26,749 sick small scale units in the State of Bihar as at the end of March 1995. Of these, 367 units were potentially viable. Banks have put 289 units under nursing.

Based on the Nayak Committee recommendations, RBI has advised banks on modified definition of sick SSI units, reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres and Head Office to deal with sick industrial units and provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects. State Level Inter Institutional committees exist under the chairmanship of Secretary Industries of the State Governments for revival of sick units.

Insurance Claims of Vehicles

5636. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time taken in settlement of insurance claims of vehicles by insurance companies;

(b) the number of claims received during each of the last three years in this regard, company-wise;

(c) the number of claims pending for one year, two years and three years, separately, company-wise;

(d) whether any responsibility is fixed on any officer in case of delay in the settlement of such claims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) While the claims relating to damage to vehicles are normally settled immediately after the receipt of requisite documents from the claimants, the Third Party claims are settled after the awards are passed by the Courts.

(b) The requisite information is as under :

Name of the Company	Year		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
National	1.04	1.09	1.50
New India	1.63	1.71	2.14
Oriental	1.25	2.03	1.85
United India	1.47	1.26	1.30
Total :	5.39	6.09	6.79

(c) The requisite information is as under :

Name of the company	No. of claims pending (Figures in thousand)		
	upto one year	upto two years	upto three years
National	35.58	2.81	1.98
New India	107.68	16.31	11.34
Oriental	25.97	22.05	10.92
United India	58.65	25.28	17.19
Total :	227.88	66.45	41.43

(d) to (f). The companies have already initiated various measures for expeditious settlement of claims and the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal (CDA) Rules of the companies provide for necessary action in case an Officer is found guilty of any lapse.

[English]

National Institute of Fashion Technology Centres

5637. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently set up a few more Centres of the National Institute of Fashion Technology to impart best of training and to meet world standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students are proposed to be admitted in those centres; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to upgrade the technology skill of the work force employed in the garment industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). Five branches of NIFT were set up at Calcutta, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Madras and Mumbai in the year 1995.