

of this, the Customs authorities in Bombay have investigated 88 export firms involving duty evasion of Rs. 98.57 crores (approx.). These exporters have inflated the net weight of export goods by using forged documents or misdeclared the blend of the fabric, with a view to import excess quantities of Polyester Filament Yarn under the Duty Exemption Scheme. An amount of Rs. 22.23 crores has been recovered during the investigation.

(c) 46 persons including exporters, clearing agents and the persons concerned with exporting firms were arrested, out of which ten persons have been detained under COFEPOSA. Two Customs officers were also arrested under the Customs Act, 1962, besides, six officers placed under suspension. The Licensing authorities have cancelled 184 licences so far. Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax authorities have also been informed in the relevant cases to initiate necessary action under their Acts.

#### **Verification of Coal Stock**

5651. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the present coal stock position in Coal stockyard of Western Coalfield Limited;

(b) whether the physical verification of the coal stock position in the WCL have ever been held during the past three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the responsibility fixed by the Government against those who are showing wrong stock positions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) is not operating any stockyards. However, the overall coal stocks in the mines of WCL as on 31.3.96 were 1.39 million tonnes (provisional).

(b) to (d). Coal India Limited have reported that physical verification of coal stock position in WCL has been done during each of the three previous years.

During the physical verification of stock by CIL Team for the year 1993-94, one case of shortage beyond the permissible limit of 5% was detected in Shivpuri under ground mine of Pench area. Necessary disciplinary action has been initiated.

Further as per check measurement carried out by WCL Head quarter team for the year 1993-94, three cases of shortages beyond permissible limit at Sasti opencast mine, Niljai II opencast mines and Kukurkunda opencast mine were detected. These cases are under investigation for taking appropriate action as per policy in force.

#### **MOU System**

5652. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :  
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for taking the decision for signing MOU regarding sick public sector undertakings;

(b) the expected result of the extension of MOU system to cover sick PSUs.

(c) the allocation made for the year 1996-97 for augmenting the MOU Scheme; and

(d) the further steps being taken to strengthen the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) This was done primarily to focus the attention of the managements of sick PSUs on all relevant factors in a set order of priority so as to make the revival package of sick PSUs more broad based and thus enhance the success of the package.

(b) It is expected that the extension of MOU system to cover sick PSUs will help in revival of these sick PSUs through focus on improvement in efficiency, productivity and better profitability.

(c) No separate allocation is made for MOU scheme. The expenditure is met out of the Budget for Department of Public Enterprises.

(d) The following steps have been taken to strengthen the MOU scheme.

(i) The ACRs of the Chief Executives of MOU signing PSEs has been linked to the MOU score in order to improve accountability.

(ii) To improve target setting, bench marking studies are being carried out by professional bodies in respect of various sectors. One such study in respect of Fertilizers sector has been completed.

(iii) 60% of weight in the MOUs has been allocated to financial criteria in order to ensure fiscal discipline.

#### **Loan Waiver Scheme in J & K**

5653. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan proposed to be waived from the accounts of various banks in Jammu and Kashmir and the criteria laid down for such waiver ;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to pay the amount back to the banks as a measure of public accountability;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). As per the statement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister in both the Houses of Parliament on 2nd August, 1996, announcing an economic package for the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government proposes

to write off the outstanding loans and interest of all borrowers in the tourism, transport, small scale industry and trade sectors in the State of Jammu and Kashmir whose original borrowings were less than or upto Rs. 50,000/-. The modalities for implementation for such waiver are being worked out.

[Translation]

#### Industrial Units in U.P.

5654. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether not a single industrial unit is set up in many districts of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to declare them as 'No Industry Districts'; and
- (d) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). During the period August, 1991 to July, 1996, 78 Industrial Licences and 249 Letters of Intent were granted for setting up industries and 2573 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda were filed for setting up industries spread over various districts of Uttar Pradesh. After the liberalisation of Industrial Policy it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create congenial atmosphere and providing infrastructural facilities for industrial development of the State/district. At present Government of India have no proposal to declare any district as a 'No Industry District'.

#### Loan Repayment Credibility

5655. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether inspite of India's improved balance of payments position, there is no possibility of upgradation of India's status interms of loan repayment credibility by International Credit Rating Organisations;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any request has been made to these organisations to review the status of the country in terms of loan repayment credibility;
- (d) if so, whether these agencies have decided to review the status of India interms of loan repayment credibility; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). International Credit Rating

Organisations undertake detailed annual reviews of India's balance of payments situation and other major economic indicators, in order to review India's Credit Rating. During recent years, the 2 major international Rating Organisations viz. Moody's and Japan Bond Research Institute, have already upgraded India to the 'investment grade'. Standard & Poor's have completed their latest review in August 1996, and their Report on the same is awaited.

[English]

#### Coir Industry

5656. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to modernise the coir industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under modernisation scheme of Coir Industry, financial assistance is extended for retting of green husk fibre in concrete tanks using 'coirret', a bacterial strain developed by Coir Board in lieu of the traditional method of immersing it in backwaters. This process will replace the natural retting of coconut husk in backwaters creating pollution of surface water and eliminate drudgery in fibre extraction. To eliminate surface water pollution due to natural retting, treatment of effluent generated during retting is also envisaged. Pith is a waste product accumulated in large quantity in the fibre production centres and creating environment pollution. Converting coir pith into organic manure by using 'pith plus', a fungus developed by the Coir Board is part of the scheme.

Popularising motorised ratt for mechanically spinning coir yarn instead of the traditional manual process, extending financial assistance for construction of loom sheds for the manufacture of coir products and setting up of Common Facility Centre for use of small units for dyeing and bleaching are also part of the scheme. For mechanised process of manufacture, financial assistance is extended for setting up of units and for modernisation of the existing coir units in brown fibre sector. The scheme envisages popularising semi automatic looms and fully automatic looms for weaving coir matting. Further, assistance for implementation of the Integrated Coir Development Project in coir producing States is also covered under the scheme of modernisation.

Under the Integrated Coir Development Project of Kerala which is the modernisation component of the cooperativisation scheme, establishment of 100 defibering units for mechanical extraction of coir fibre and 20,000