

Research and Development Work on various aspects of Coir

4958. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in the present situation when the coir goods are facing tough competition from both natural and synthetic fibre, it is necessary to do large scale research and development work on various aspects of coir to promote its market in India and abroad and also to find alternate use of coir goods;

(b) if so, the steps so far taken by Government;

(c) the additional steps Government intend to take; and

(d) additional funds Government would make available for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Research schemes aiming at the product betterment, improvement in production technique, newer uses of coir etc. have received great attention of the Coir Board. In the draft Fifth Five Year Plan, the development programmes for the industry have been designed with considerable emphasis on research for product diversification and improvement so as to upgrade the quality of products and to expand further the level of exports and internal sales. Out of a total central sector tentative outlay of Rs. 2.48 crores for the Fifth Five Year Plan, new research activities alone will account for about Rs. 54 lakhs. In addition, an outlay of Rs. 13.02 crores has been tentatively allocated for the development of coir industry in the draft Fifth Five Year Plan of the States and Union Territories. Further, the Central Government have also released Rs. 2 crores to the State Government of Kerala so

far for restructuring of coir cooperatives in that State; this is in addition to the State plan outlays available for the development of coir industry.

Coca Cola Export Corporation

4959. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a free foreign exchange licence of the value of Rs. 15 lakhs has recently been granted to the Coca-Cola Export Corporation;

(b) if so, considerations for the same;

(c) whether the Coca Cola Export Corporation has agreed to Indianise upto 60 per cent of its equity participation by a specific date; and

(d) if not, whether any action will be taken under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b). An import licence for approximately Rs. 15 lakhs has been recommended by the concerned authorities in favour of M/s. Coca Cola Export Corporation in order to enable Messrs Coca Cola Export Corporation to produce the concentrates which are required by the 22 Indian bottlers of coca cola. These raw materials are also required for production of concentrates for export from India, one of the conditions imposed on Messrs Coca Cola Export Corporation being that the value of concentrate exports shall be at least 25 per cent higher than the total value of import of raw materials by Coca Cola Export Corporation, and remittances of dividends, Head Office expenses and all other payments by them. However, as on date, the import licence in question has not issued.

(c) and (d). The application of Messrs Coca Cola Export Corporation under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act received by the Reserve Bank of India is still under consideration of

the Bank. It is expected that the Bank will take a decision thereon in keeping with the guidelines which were issued by the Ministry of Finance and which were laid on the Table of the House.

Grants to various Departments for Sports facilities

4960. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government give grants every year to their various Departments for providing sports facilities to the employees of various categories;

(b) if so, the amount of grants given;

(c) whether these grants are given only for facilities to Class I employees; and

(d) if so, the reasons for depriving Class II, III and IV Employees of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grant-in-aid is given on the basis of the total regular strength of staff in a Ministry/Department at the rate of Rs. 2 per head per annum. In addition, an amount matching the subscription collected by the staff clubs or Re. 1 per head per annum, whichever is less, is also sanctioned to the clubs. During 1973-74, a total grant of Rs. 1,58,867.00 was given to these clubs. A provision of Rs. 1.73 lakhs is available for the purpose in the current financial year.

(c) No, Sir. The grant-in-aid is meant for providing recreation facilities to all categories of staff.

(d) Does not arise.

Grant of Pension to Freedom Fighters

4961. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widows and other dependents of the Freedom Fighters/Ex-I.N.A. Personnel are also eligible for the sanction of pension, available to the political sufferers; and

(b) if so, the number of widows and dependants in this category who have been awarded pension for each one of the States, separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Upto 15th March, 1975, pension have been sanctioned in 100623 cases. As no separate account has been kept, it is not possible to give the number of widows and other dependents of freedom fighters who have been sanctioned pension for each State separately.

Harnessing of Hydel Resources in Hilly States of J. & K., H. P., Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland

4962. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been drawn up by Government for harnessing the hydel resources in the Hilly States of J. & K., Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland;

(b) if so, a brief outline of the plan; and

(c) if not, whether such a plan is proposed to be drawn up and implemented on a priority basis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c): The planning for harnessing the hydel resources is a continuous process. A preliminary survey conducted