

(b) If so, the reasons for the failure in meeting the target;

(c) whether Government have prepared any action plan to strengthen the export capability of textile industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the export earnings of textile industry during each of the last three years and the reasons for decline in export earnings, if any?

**THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) :** (a) and (b) According to provisional figure available with the Ministry of Textiles, in dollar terms, the overall growth in the export of textiles during 1997-98 was approximately 4.6% and the performance fell short by 7.3%.

The shortfall in achieving the target was due to continued recession and slump in the retailing activities in some of the major importing countries, particularly the EU and the USA and unfavourable market conditions due to currency crisis in certain South East Asian countries.

(c) and (d) In order to boost the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

(e) The exports of textiles (including handicrafts, jute and coir) during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 had been as follows:

Year	Value (In US million dollars)
1994-95	9,980.15
1995-96	10,685.07
1996-97	11,839.13

#### **Session of Un-economic and Social Commission**

522. **SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the issues discussed at the recently held 54th Annual Session of the UN Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) :** (a) The 54th Annual Session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific which was held at Bangkok during 16-22 April, 1998 deliberated on the theme topic Asia and the Pacific into the Twenty first Century: Prospects for Social Development. Issues relating to South-East financial crisis; Regional

Economic Cooperation; pro-active trade agenda for 2000 and beyond; regional cooperation on environment and sustainable development, transport, tourism, infrastructure, rural poverty alleviation etc. were discussed.

(b) The Commission endorsed India's suggestions on:

- (i) preparation of a pro-active positive agenda for future trade negotiations under the WTO;
- (ii) priority consideration for routing of Trans-Asian Railway southern corridor linkages through north eastern sector of India; and
- (iii) hosting of the second Ministerial Conference on space Applications in New Delhi in 1999.

India also co-sponsored the following 5 resolutions which were adopted during the above session:

- (1) Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century.
- (2) Mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region.
- (3) International year of older persons: towards a society for all ages.
- (4) Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.
- (5) Strengthening the role of the family in social development.

#### **Discovery of Coal Mines**

523. **SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new coal mines have been discovered recently by different coal companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; Company-wise, coal mine-wise;

(c) the details of different grades of coal deposits found in those coal mines;

(d) whether Chhendipada Coal Mines is one of them; and

(e) if so, the total area of coal reserve in the Chhendipada Coal Mines and the grade of coal reserve found in that coal mines?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) :** (a) and (b) Coal reserves are identified by Geological Survey of India (GSI) as a result of exploration conducted by various agencies in different parts of country. Coal reserves of India (down to a depth of 1200 metres) estimated by GSI, as on 1.1.97 and 1.1.98