

(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

has been 204,652.69 mt. and 206,239.50 mt. respectively. Their state-wise distribution is indicated below:

State	Coal companies concerned	Reserves in million tonnes	
		As on 1.1.97	As on 1.1.98
A.P.	SCCL	13057.23	13127.23
Arunachal Pradesh	NEC	90.23	90.23
Assam	NEC	320.21	320.21
Bihar	CCL, BCCL, ECL	67819.36	67996.71
M.P.	WCL, SECL, NCL	41451.21	42116.35
Maharashtra	WCL	6738.79	6778.65
Meghalaya	NEC	459.43	459.43
Nagaland	NEC	19.94	19.94
Orissa	MCL	47889.83	48376.46
U.P.	NCL	1061.80	1061.80
W. Bengal	ECL	25774.66	25892.49
Total		204652.69	206239.50

Based on the exploration results, demand of coal, grade of coal, location of the deposit, geo-mining conditions and financial viability, projects are taken up

(c) Based on the estimates of GSI as on 1.1.1998, the details of the different grades are given below.

(In million tonnes)

Non-Coking Coal-	Grade A -	2087.95
	Grade B -	6979.55
	Grade C -	16526.95
	Grade D -	23111.06
	Grade E, F & G -	86337.48
	Inferred -	40177.06
	(Grade yet to be firmed up)	
Total	175220.05	
Coking coal		30132.43
Tertiary coal		887.02
Grand Total		206239.50

(d) and (e) No, Sir, Chhendipada is an on-going project under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). Total mineable coal reserves of Chhendipada are 2.56 mt. and the grade of coal is 'E' & 'F' (non-coking)

#### Number of Textile Mills

524. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the number of textile mills in the Public Sector, State-wise,

(b) the number out of these have fallen sick;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to hand-over all the sick mills to the respective State Governments; and

(d) if so, the relief and incentives proposed to be given to the State Governments who are willing to accept the offer made by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) There are 124 textile mills in the Public Sector. A statement is attached indicating the statewise break up of these mills.

(b) As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, it is the individual companies and not the mills under them that are referred to BIFR on account of sickness. In respect of National Textile Corporation 8 out of its 9 Subsidiaries covering 104 mills, have been declared sick by the BIFR. In addition the British India Corporation and its two Subsidiaries, Elgin Mills Co. Ltd., and Cawnpore Textile Ltd. having 5 mills have been declared sick by the BIFR.

(c) and (d) An offer to take over sick textile mills of NTC and BIC Subsidiaries at a National cost or even free of cost was made to the respective State Governments provided the State Governments were willing to accept the responsibility of running the viable mills and protecting the interest of the workers. Offer was also made that the Central Government would write-off/waive the loans given by the Government of India/NTC(HC) to these mills and interest thereon as well as the amount of VRS paid to the workers who had accepted voluntary retirement. In addition, the Government of India would be willing to discharge the liabilities towards arrears of statutory dues of the workers.

#### Statement

Statement showing position of NTC and BIC Mills State-wise and Urban Territory-wise

S.No	Name of the State	No. of Mills
1	2	3
1	Punjab	5
2	Rajasthan	4
3	Madhya Pradesh	7
4	Uttar Pradesh	15
5	Maharashtra	35
6	Gujarat	11
7	Andhra Pradesh	6