

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) A new industrial policy for the North Eastern region was announced by the Government on December 24, 1997. Details of the Policy are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

New Industrial Policy and other concession in the North-Eastern Region

The Government has approved the new Industrial Policy and other Concessions in the North Eastern Region which *inter alia* envisage the following:

A. Development of Industrial Infrastructure

- (i) Government has approved that entire expenditure on the growth centres would be provided as Central assistance, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15 crores.
- (ii) In respect of the IID centres the funding pattern would be changed from 2:3 between GOI and SIDBI to 4:1, and the GOI funds would be a grant.

B. Transport Subsidy Scheme

- (i) The Transport subsidy scheme will be extended further in so far as N.E. States are concerned, for a period of another 7 years i.e. upto 31st March, 2007.

C. Fiscal incentives to new industrial units and their substantial expansion

- (i) Government has approved for converting the growth centres and IIDCs into a tax free zone for the next 10 years. All industrial activity in these zones would be free from income tax and excise duty, for a period of 10 years from the commencement of production. State Governments would be requested to grant exemptions in respect of Sales Tax and Municipal Tax.
- (ii) Industries located in the growth centres would also be given capital investment subsidy at the rate of 15% of their investment in plant and machinery, subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 30 lakhs.
- (iii) An interest subsidy of 3% on the working capital loans would be provided for a period of ten years after the commencement of production.
- (iv) Similar benefits would also be extended to the new industrial units or their substantial expansion in other Growth centres of IIDCs or industrial estates/ parks/export promotion zones set up by the States in the NE region.

D. Relaxation of PMRY Norms

- (i) The PMRY would be expanded in scope to cover areas of horticulture, piggery, poultry, fishing, Small tea gardens, etc. So as to cover all economically viable activities. PMRY would have a family income ceiling of Rs. 40,000 per annum for each beneficiary along with his/her spouse and upper age limit will be relaxed to 40 years. Projects costing upto Rs. 2 lakhs in other than business sectors will be eligible for assistance. No collateral will be insisted for projects costing upto Rs. 1 lakh. Group financing upto Rs. 5 lakhs will be eligible. Scheme will have a subsidy component @ 15% with an upper ceiling of Rs. 15,000. The margin money may vary from 5% to 12.5% of the project cost to make the subsidy and margin contribution at 20% of the project cost. PMRY would continue to have Entrepreneurship Training Component as per the existing rate.

E. Other Incentives Proposed

- (i) A comprehensive insurance scheme for industrial units in the North East will be designed in consultation with General Insurance Corporation of India Ltd. and 100% premium for a period of 10 years would be subsidised by Central Government.
- (ii) A one time grant of Rs.20 crores will be provided to the North East Development Financial Corporation (NEDFI) by the Central Government through NEC to fund techno-economic studies for industries and infrastructure best suited to this region.

Export Strategy

630. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had worked out a medium term export strategy for the next three years and announced it in January this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to implement and enforce the strategy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has prepared a Medium term strategy covering sectoral and directional aspects for achieving a targeted export level of US \$ 90 to 100 billion by the year 2002 and to achieve 1% share in world exports. The sectoral strategy discusses sector specific issues and

suggests various measures to improve trade in these sectors. The directional strategy suggests a special focus on the emerging markets in Africa, Latin America, and CIS countries.

(c) Exim policy announced recently has focussed on procedural simplification and strengthening of export promotion schemes. An integrated programme for promoting exports to Latin American countries has been launched. A reduction in interest rate on export credit has been launched. A reduction in interest rate on export credit has been effected to reduce the cost of export-finance. Special measures have been taken to enhance the production base for exports. Export promotion is an ongoing activity and measures are taken in consultation with trade, industry and export promotion organisations.

Health Care facilities for Coal Mines Workers

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide health care facilities to the workers engaged in coal mining activities;

(b) the number of hospitals/dispensaries and mobile health vans etc., provided by the Government to different coal mines under different coal companies for the purpose;

(c) whether adequate health care facilities are not available to the workers of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to provide adequate health care facilities to the workers of MCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Coal India Ltd., through its subsidiary companies is responsible for providing health care facilities to all the workers through a chain of hospitals and dispensaries spread over the coalfields. Workers are also referred to outside hospitals for specialised treatment when such facilities is not available in the company's hospitals. Regular monitoring of workers' health is carried out through periodic medical examination. In the last few years various special/super special facilities like neonatology, Dialysis unit, ICU, TMT and Holder Monitor, Neurosurgery with whole body CT scanner unit, Endoscopy unit, Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy, Physio Therapy unit etc. have been installed at various hospitals of CIL.

(b) Number of hospitals, dispensaries and mobile vans provided by CIL and its subsidiaries is as under:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----|
| 1. No. of hospitals | - | 86 |
| 2. No. of dispensaries | - | 434 |
| 3. No. of Mobile Health Vans | - | 11 |

(c) Adequate Health care facilities are available to the workers of MCL.

(d) and (e) Does not arise, in view of reply at 'C' above.

Gross Domestic Product

632. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Public sector and private sector industry, separately, during the last three years excluding small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : The details of Gross Domestic Product by public sector and private sector industries, during the last three years are estimated as under:

Gross Domestic Product

(Rs. in Crore)

| Year | Public Sector | Private Sector |
|---------|---------------|----------------|
| 1994-95 | 231764 | 636255 |
| 1995-96 | 263957 | 742329 |
| 1996-97 | 294050 | 855165 |

Upgradation of Bangalore City

633. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to declare Bangalore City as "A-1 City" for the purpose of granting House Rent Allowance of 30 percent of the basic salary to Central Government employees based in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria adopted in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Central Government Employees Unions have also requested in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (e) A City/town can be classified as A-1 if it has a population of 50 lakhs or more. Bangalore City does not fulfil this condition laid down by the Fifth Central Pay Commission. It cannot, therefore, be classified as 'A-1' for the purposes of grant of House Rent Allowance.