

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar				
1.	Purnea		12	11
2.	Saharsa		18	9
			30	20
Assam/ Meghalaya				
1.	Nagaon		13	12
2.	Guwahati		6	6
3.	Dhubri		11	8
			30	26
Tripura	1.	Agartala	8	3
Orissa	1.	Cuttack	10	6
Andhra Pradesh				
	1.	Vizianagram	14	13
			208	165

[Translation]

Subsidy Paid to Retired Employees

986. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have tried to lure the employees of NTC to opt for voluntary retirement by providing them 33 per cent subsidy in case they set up their own project; and

(b) if so, the number of employees who have been provided this subsidy so far and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Government have formulated a scheme for rehabilitation of workers rationalised under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Under the scheme, the workers can start their own project by purchasing old looms from NTC at a nominal price or can purchase new powerlooms/reeling machines from machinery manufactures. The requisite finance is available from the banks. The company would also provide production incentive in such ventures after successful operation for six months from the date of commissioning.

As on 30.9.98, 431 workers have been provided with looms under this scheme. However, the release of production incentive is under consideration.

[English]

Budgetary Allocation for Coal Sector

987. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation made by the Government to coal sector during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any external assistance was also sought during the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) During the last three years the following budgetary allocation was made by the Govt. to the Coal Sector:

Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate
1997-98	Rs. 485.63 cr.	Rs. 413.16 cr.
1996-97	Rs. 530.88 cr.	Rs. 390.46 cr.
1995-96	Rs. 606.43 cr.	Rs. 539.69 cr.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The budget allocation indicated in part (a) of the question includes external funding routed through budget. The external funding was sought for utilisation of bilateral and multilateral external credit, technical assistance and technological improvements etc. The details of the provisions for external funding made through the budget during the last three years are as follows :

		(Rs. crore)			
		CIL	SCCL	NLC	Total
1997-98	BE	0.00	18.50	0.35	18.85
	RE	0.00	41.77	10.25	52.02
1996-97	BE	0.00	42.78	21.10	63.88
	RE	0.00	37.10	21.10	58.20
1995-96	BE	41.00	22.00	38.57	101.57
	RE	41.00	58.36	39.12	138.48

CIL: Coal India Limited SCCL : Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. NLC : Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

High Powered Committee for Exim Policy

988. SHRI MAGANTI BABU :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up two high powered committees for the smooth functioning of Exim Policy ;

(b) if so, the time by which these committees are likely to be set up;

(c) the other aims and objectives of these committees; and

(d) the time by which these committees are likely to submit their reports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) The Government had set up a High-Powered Committee on Advance Licensing Scheme in June, 1998, based on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in its 24th Report (1997-98) primarily to enquire into the manner of operation of Advance Licence (Duty Exemption Scheme), to find out the factors responsible for the abuse of the Advance Licensing Scheme, specially value Based Advance Licensing Scheme, as also to recommend the measures required to prevent recurrence of such abuses, and the remedial steps necessary to speed up recovery of Government dues from the export defaulters. The Committee has submitted its Report to the Government on the 3rd December 1998.

Procurement made by JCI

989. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procurement of Jute made by Jute Corporation of India during the last year;

(b) whether JCI has been failing to have timely action for procurement of jute from the growers;

(c) whether such delay is causing reduction of procurement price to the growers by the hoarders; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect the interest of Jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) JCI procured a total quantity of 9.85 lakh bales (9.4% of total production) under price support operation in 1997-98.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Lal-Matia Colliery

990. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lal-Matia Colliery of Rajmahal project is earning profit; and

(b) if so, the reasons for declaring it as sick colliery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Lalmatia Underground mine was closed in May, 1989 and Lalmatia Opencast (Pilot Quarry) was closed in March, 1986 and merged with Rajmahal Opencast Project which is earning profit. The Rajmahal Project has not been declared as sick.

Expenditure on Closed Textile Mills

991. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV :
(JAHANABAD)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of N.T.C. mills which are lying closed but the worker employed therein are still getting salaries without work;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of expenditure made on salaries of workers in these mills during the last three years; and

(d) the efforts made/being made by the Government for their revival and modernisation of sick textile mills to boost the production and to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Out of the 120 mills under NTC, no mill has been closed except Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi which has been closed as per the orders of the Supreme Court on polluting industries. In the remaining 119 mills, presently there are no production activities in 35 mills while 84 mills are either partially or fully operational. However, the workers of all the 119 mills are paid their wages. A statement-I showing the State-wise break up of these 119 mills is enclosed.

(c) The details of funds released to the NTC Subsidiaries towards payment of salaries and wages during the last three years, are given in Statement-II.

(d) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the networth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in the view in the revival plan.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Mills
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Karnataka	4
3.	Kerala	5
4.	Punjab	4