

(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

1	2	3
5.	Rajasthan	4
6.	Gujarat	11
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7
8.	Maharashtra	35
9.	Tamil Nadu	13
10.	Pondicherry (UT)	3
11.	Uttar Pradesh	11
12.	West Bengal	12
13.	Assam	1
14.	Bihar	2
15.	Orissa	1
Total		119

Statement-II

Subsidiary	Funds released in Rs. in Lacs		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
NTC(DP & R)	1313.54	2033.00	1624.00
NTC (MP)	2814.81	3140.00	3070.77
NTC (UP)	4072.37	4471.00	4902.62
NTC (SM)	2430.55	3221.00	2976.58
NTC (MN)	2617.25	3810.00	3954.02
NTC (Guj.)	3317.08	4130.00	4211.41
NTC (APKK & M)	1017.62	2210.00	2238.22
NTC (TN & P)	0.00	835.00	772.55
NTC (WBAB & O)	3267.50	3732.00	4074.99
13 Taken over Mills, Mumbai (since nationalised)	3468.87	4414.00	4940.50
Total	24319.59	31996.00	32765.66

Royalty of Coal

992. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the royalty rate of coal has not been revised since long;

(b) whether the coal bearing States are facing a lot of hardships on account of this;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the rate of royalty;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the study group set up for revision of rates of royalty of coal;

(e) if so, the details of such recommendations and the details of recommendations accepted; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to

revise the rate of royalty on the basis of said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (f) The rates of royalty on coal were last revised on 11.10.94. In terms of the proviso to section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Central Government is empowered to enhance royalty rates on coal not more than once during any period of three years. There is no compulsion to revise royalty rates every three years. The Central Government has the option to keep the royalty rates unchanged as was done during 1981-91.

The Study Group classified the various grades of coal into two groups for purpose of fixation of royalty rates. The Group recommended that royalty for Group I coal consisting of coking coal and A, B and C grades of non-coking coal should be 25% of the base prices and for Group II coals consisting of D,E,F and G grades of non-coking coal 20% of the base prices.

Promotion of Handicrafts in Gujarat

993. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:

SHRI TEJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State Governments for promotion of handicrafts during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals out of these pending or under consideration, as on date;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for promotion of handicrafts in Mutch, Jamnagar and Ahmedabad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount spent on the promotion of handicrafts during the last three years and in the current year, till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Some proposals have been received from various State Corporations in the last 3 years for promotion of handicrafts. The number of proposals received from them and pending out of them during each of the last three years, State-wise, is as per Statement attached.

(c) and (d) No special scheme has been prepared for promotion of handicrafts in Kutch, Jamnagar and Ahmedabad. However the existing schemes of the Government which include : training; design development; setting up of crafts development centres ; opening of new emporia and renovation/expansion of new existing emporia; exhibition and publicity etc. for promotion of handicrafts take care of needs of above mentioned districts.

(e) The amount sanctioned on the promotion of handicrafts during the last three years and in the current year till November, 1998, State-wise, is as per Statement-II attached.