

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some countries are dumping certain varieties of steel in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to impose anti-dumping duty on steel;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to save the domestic steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder has conducted anti-dumping investigations into dumping of hot rolled coils, sheets plates and strips originating in or exported from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The Designated Authority has notified final findings wherein the Authority has concluded that :-

- (i) Hot rolled coils, plates, sheets and strips originating in or exported from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have been exported to India below their normal value except for hot rolled coils originating in Kazakhstan, resulting in dumping;
- (ii) The domestic industry has suffered material injury;
- (iii) The injury has been caused to the domestic industry by the exports of the subject goods originating in or exported from the subject countries.

(c) to (e) The Central Government, based on the recommendations of the Designated Authority has imposed antidumping duty on imports of the said products.

[Translation]

Indigenous Industry

1114. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to give a boost to the indigenous industries in the field of raw material;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated and the facilities being provided in this regard; and

(c) the outcome of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Industrial raw material includes semi-finished and finished products such as steel, cement, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, coal, etc. Government have announced various measures for infrastructure sectors such as roads, telecommunication, power, construction activities, etc. Implementation of these measures is expected to boost the demand of raw materials. Reduction in duty structure and tariff rationalisation are some of the fiscal measures intended to boost indigenous industries in the field of raw material. The Ministry has created steering groups related to sectors like paper, automobile, electrical products, etc. which are consulting with industry to suggest appropriate measures in this regard.

(c) The requirement of different semi-finished and finished products as indigenous raw materials by various industries are not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Industry. The demand of various end-users of raw materials depend upon their utilization in different sectors. Various schemes of the Government are intended to provide the necessary boost. It is expected that during the current year, the schemes will have a positive impact.

Appointment of Lokpal in Insurance Sector

1115. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to appoint Lok pal in the insurance sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the appointment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to appoint 'Lokpal' in the insurance sector. However, Govt. has recently notified the scheme of Ombudsman to resolve all complaints relating to settlement of claims on the part of insurance companies in cost effective, efficient and impartial manner. The basic features of the scheme are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Basic Features of Ombudsman Scheme:

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (i) of

Section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938, the Central Government has framed the 'Redressal of Public Grievances Rules, 1998', under which Ombudsman will be appointed for speedy and expeditious settlement of personal line of claims. The Ombudsman will have power to receive and consider any partial or total repudiation of claims by an insurer, any dispute in regard to premium paid or payable in terms of the policy, in dispute on any legal construction of policies, delay in settlement of claims and non-issue of any insurance document to customers after receipt of premium.

No complaint to the Ombudsman shall lie unless the complainants had before making a complaint to the Ombudsman made written representation to the insurer named in the complaint and either insurer had rejected the complaint or the complainant had not received any reply within a period of one month after the insurer concerned received his representations or the complainant is not satisfied with the reply given to him by the insurer.

The Ombudsman has been empowered to make a recommendation or pass an award in respect of claims on personal lines which are binding on the insurer but the complainant may or may not agree with the recommendations or award made by the Ombudsman.

However, the Ombudsman shall not award any compensation in excess of which is necessary to cover the loss suffered by the complainant as a direct consequence of the insured peril or for an amount not exceeding Rs. 20 lacs (including ex-gratia and other expenses), whichever is lower.

[English]

Entrance of LIC in Commercial Banking

1116. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India proposes to enter into the field of commercial banking;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether any Committee has been set up for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the recommendations of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that it has set up an Internal Committee of three senior officers to examine the feasibility of LIC entering into the field of commercial banking. The LIC will take a view in the matter after the recommendations of the Committee are submitted to the Corporation.

Industrial Sickness

1117. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rising level of industrial sickness in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Karnataka is causing concern in banking and financial circles;
- (b) if so, whether according to a Report of Centre for monitoring Indian Economy, most of the Industrial Units of these States have to return a huge amount of outstanding dues to banks;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the reasons for sickness of industrial units of these States; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Data of sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to the latest available report as at the end of March, 1997, the position of industrial sickness in Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Karnataka and the outstanding bank credit is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) According to the RBI report, a number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination have been responsible for industrial sickness. The main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing, etc. The RBI report mentions change in Govt. policies as one of the external factors.

(e) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of Industrial Sickness which, *inter-alia*, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund etc.