

(c) and (d) The Government of India is providing assistance to the weavers in a Co-ordinated and integrated manner under various schemes for their Socio-economic upliftment. The schemes under which such assistance is provided, are: Project Package Scheme, Setting up of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme, Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme, Welfare Schemes like; Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers etc.

[Translation]

#### Disposal of Cases relating to Displaced Persons

1122. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether many cases relating to displaced people were disposed of recently by organising camps at various places in Central Coalfields Ltd;

(b) if so, the names of places where such camps were organised; and

(c) the number of cases disposed of during 1998, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, during 1998, for disposal of cases of displaced people, camps were held at Urimari, Fusri, Ichakdih, Chalkari, Nagra, Amlo, Bahera, Kalyanpur and Jhujhko.

(c) Till date in the year 1998, 133 cases have been disposed of.

#### Trade Deficit

1123. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase or decrease in export registered during August, 1998 vis-a-vis August, 1997 and the extent of increase that was made in the trade deficit during that month;

(b) the extent of balance of payment of India likely to be affected due to increase in trade deficit; and

(c) the details of ambitious schemes launched by the Government to boost export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) As per the provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), exports registered growth of 24.35%

in Rupee terms and 4.47% in dollar terms during August, 1998 vis-a-vis August 1997. The trade deficit increased to US\$ 456.51 million during August, 1998 from US \$ 319.02 million in August 1997.

(b) Trade deficit is measured as excess of imports over exports. This results in foreign exchange outgo, affecting the balance of payment position. In addition to the trade deficit, Balance of Payment is also affected by other factors such as outflows on account of invisibles and capital flows.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. A Cabinet Committee on Foreign Trade has also been set up to review the export performance.

[English]

#### Pending Industrial Licence

1124. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for Industrial Licence pending with the Government for clearance, Industry-wise and State-wise as on October 31, 1998;

(b) the reasons for each of the above pending applications;

(c) the time by which all the pending applications are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps contemplated for speedy disposal of pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) As on 31st October, 1998, a total of 63 Industrial Licence applications for grant of Letter of Intent are pending with the Government for clearance. An Industry-wise and State-wise details of these proposals is given in the Statement.

(b) to (d) All steps are taken for speedy disposal of applications. Actual disposal of the applications depends on the sectoral policy adopted by the Administrative Ministry,