

(a) whether Cess is levied on the import of technology in the country;

(b) if so, the rate and manner thereof;

(c) the average annual income likely to be accrued from levying of this cess;

(d) the amount collected from this Cess till March 1998 and the total amount spent out of it alongwith the needs under which it has been spent; and

(e) the names of the areas identified for spending this amount alongwith order of their priority?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Currently Cess is levied @ 5% on all payments made by industrial concerns towards import of technology under any foreign collaboration. The Cess is payable at Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of India.

(c) Based on the past data available, the annual income likely to accrue during the current year from the levy of the R&D Cess would be Rs.80 crores.

(d) The amount of Cess collected till March, 1998 has been of the order of Rs.526.43 crores. Out of this, an amount of Rs.107.74 crores has been released by Government for financing the commercialisation of indigenous technology and adaption of imported technology for wider application. Since September, 1996, the funds are released to the Technology Development Board (TDB) created for this purpose under an Act of Parliament.

(e) In order to encourage indigenisation of technology and wider application of imported technology, over as many areas as possible, no order of priority has been drawn up. TDB has so far covered areas in health care, engineering, electronics, chemicals, lubricants, agriculture, bio-technology, transport, energy, waste utilisation and telecommunication.

Companies Registered under Companies Act

2435. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 during the current year till date, State-wise; and

(b) the number of new companies registered under the new industrial classification/policy during the said period and the maximum authorised capital thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) The number of companies registered

under the Companies Act, 1956 during April-October, 1998, state-wise is given in enclosed Statement - I.

(b) The number of companies registered during April-October, 1998 classified according to Industrial Activities with authorised capital is given in enclosed Statement - II.

Statement-I

*Companies limited by share registered during
1.4.98 to 31.10.98*

State & UT	No. of companies registered
Andhra Pradesh	1261
Assam	147
Bihar	218
Gujarat	980
Haryana	150
Himachal Pradesh	50
Jammu & Kashmir	94
Karnataka	800
Kerala	366
Madhya Pradesh	397
Maharashtra	3194
Manipur	11
Meghalaya	6
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	9
Orissa	266
Punjab	415
Rajasthan	446
Tamilnadu	1356
Tripura	4
Uttar Pradesh	656
West Bengal	1258
Arunachal Pradesh	10
Goa	70
Chandigarh	197
Delhi	3785
Daman & Diu	5
Pondicherry	52
Total	16204

Statement-II

Industry-wise distribution of companies limited by share registered during 1.4.98 to 31.10.98 and their authorised capital

Industrial classification	No. of Companies	Authorised capital (Rs. lakhs)
1. Agriculture and Allied Activities	736	12091.90
2. Mining & Quarrying	141	122482.00
3. Manufacturing		
(a) Food-stuffs, Textiles, Wood Products, Leather & Products thereof	1985	56158.59
(b) Metals, Chemicals and Products thereof, Machinery & Equipment	3868	123272.63
(c) Electricity, Gas & Water	113	13356.00
4. Constructions	1219	43360.08
Wholesale & Retail Trade and Restaurants & Hotels	2695	43211.08
6. Transport, Storage & Communication	825	15156.90
7. Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	3892	100256.45
8. Community, Social & Personal Services	730	12768.25

Investment in Power Sector through Resurgent Bonds

2436. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to invest amount collected through the Resurgent India Bonds in the Power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) and (c) The Power Finance Corporation has received Rs.100 crores out of the proceeds of Resurgent India Bonds (RIB) from the State Bank of India, as subscription of 12.75%, 5 years Taxable Bonds allotted by the Corporation. These funds have been received by Power Finance Corporation to augment its long term resources and are being used to fund power projects as per objectives of the corporation.

[English]

Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund for Power Plant

2437. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has got the go-ahead from the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund for awarding the main plant package of the proposed 1,000 MW project being set up at Simhadri;

(b) if so, the total cost of this project;

(c) whether Japanese agency had earlier expressed reservations of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) conveyed its 'no objection' in November, 1998 to the recommendation of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for award of Main Plant Turnkey Project for Simhadri Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) to M/s. BHEL.

(b) The total estimated cost of the project is Rs.3650.79 crores at first quarter 1997 price level.

(c) and (d) The OECF had raised queries on the method of land filling/reasonableness of the stipulated schedule and also preparedness of M/s BHEL for carrying out the required quantity of land filling and levelling the same, within the stipulated time period for Main Plant Turnkey Package for the project. NTPC had provided detailed justification on these issues based on which OECF conveyed their 'No Objection' to the award of the work for the package to M/s BHEL.

(e) The preliminary work at the project site has already commenced. The Main Plant Turnkey Package has been awarded to M/s BHEL on 23.11.1998.

[Translation]

Amendment of Companies Act, 1956

2438. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :
SHRI DINSHAW PATEL :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since been implemented the recommendations of the report submitted by the task force constituted for amendment of Company Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the kind of control likely to be exercised on the operation and functioning of the companies of the country under the new Company Act;

(d) whether the existing laws for companies filing their annual returns and violating their promises made at the time of floating shares are to be made more stringent in the forthcoming amendments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?