

SEBI, 1893 companies came out with initial public offerings during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1997-98. Out of these, 41 companies were not traceable. The details of these companies have been forwarded by SEBI to Department of Company Affairs for appropriate action.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Compensation to the Victims of PSUs

3678. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of compensation is being paid to the victims of fatal accidents in various public sector undertakings; and

(b) the criteria laid down for the compensation to the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) The compensation for employment injury/death to employees of Public Sector Undertakings is payable either under the Employee State Insurance Act, 1948 or under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. In the case of death and disablement, the employees of the PSUs covered under the ESI Scheme are entitled to payment of monthly pension at the rate of 70 per cent of the wages from the ESI Corporation. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, the minimum amount of compensation in case of death is Rs. 50,000 and in the case of permanent total disablement Rs. 60,000. Depending on the wage and age of the workmen at the time of disablement/death, the maximum in the case of death may go upto Rs. 2.28 lakh and for permanent total disablement up to Rs. 2.74 lakh.

New Products of SAIL

3679. SHRI D. S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAIL has launched new products recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company has also developed some other products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The new products launched by SAIL recently are listed below :

- SAE 1020 grade HR coils (Bokaro Steel Plant)
- EDD through concast (Bokaro Steel Plant)
- Higher grades of CRNO steel (M 36 & M 27) (Rourkela Steel Plant)
- SAPH 45 (Rourkela Steel Plant)
- Corrosion resistant TMT bars (Durgapur Steel Plant)
- SAE 1070 billets (Durgapur Steel Plant)
- Microalloyed wheels

(c) and (d) SAIL has developed the process technology for making microalloyed coach and wagon wheels through BOF-VAD route, and the Indian Railways have already approved these wheels for trail run. The launching of this product is conditional upon the clearance of Indian Railways.

Export of Data Processing and Tourism

3680. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to boost export of services like data processing and tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry had urged the Government to formulate strategies for augmenting forex earning through invisibles and services exports like accounting, consultancy, mailing and other professional services from India.

(c) The Government has considered the proposal favourable and has recognised all the services covered under the General Agreement on Trade in Services. A separate chapter has been incorporated on export of services listing various facilities for export of services. These facilities include recognition of export of services for Service Export House, International Service Export House, International Star Service Export House, International Super Star Service Export purpose and extension of schemes such as the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Export Oriented Unit Scheme/ Export Processing Zone Scheme/Software technology park scheme etc.

[Translation]

Loans to Poor People

3681. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules have been framed to provide loan assistance to common people, small artisans and those living below poverty line by nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount provided as loan by each nationalised bank during each of the last three years, Scheme-wise; and

(d) the number of persons benefited there from during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Sale of Steel Items in the Country by SAIL

3682. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAIL has launched any scheme for sale of steel items in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives likely to be given for sale of the above items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) SAIL has recently introduced a scheme for appointment of authorised dealers for certain steel products with a view to widen the reach of its products. Steel items covered under the scheme are TMT Bars/ Tor Steel, GP/GC Sheet and BP Coil and Light Structurals.

(c) It may not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to disclose this information.

[Translation]

Loan /Grant to Weavers

3683. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide financial assistance to weavers as Loan/Grant in person during the current financial year instead of giving emphasis to constitute co-operative organisations in various States, particularly in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The requirement of credit for Handloom

Weavers outside the cooperative fold is taken care of by State Handloom Development Corporations. The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recently included State Handloom Development Corporations for financing their working capital requirements which, inter-alia, would make credit available for Weavers outside the cooperative fold. This assistance will also cover all the States including Bihar as no separate State-wise provision is made.

[English]

Merger of Banks

3684. Er. SHANKAR PANNU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to merge Bareilly Bank Corporation of India with the Bank of Baroda; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above merger is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) In exercise of powers conferred under Sub Section (2) of Section 45 of B.R. Act 1949, the Central Government after considering an application made by the Reserve Bank of India, has made an order of moratorium in respect of Bareilly Corporation Bank Limited (BCBL) for a period from the close of business on 8th March, 1999 upto and inclusive of 5th June, 1999.

During the period of moratorium, RBI will prepare a draft scheme of amalgamation of BCBL with the Bank of Baroda and forward the scheme to the concerned banks and also invite objections and suggestions from the depositors, creditors, share-holders etc. after taking into account objections received, RBI will forward a scheme of amalgamation to the Central Government for consideration and notification. As such it is not possible to indicate a definite date.

Modern International Technology for Exploitation of Diamonds

3685. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce modern international technology for exploiting large scale reserves of diamonds located in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms fixed for awarding its mining contracts;

(d) whether the Government coordinate with Mineral Development Corporations of various States in examining the bids before awarding contract; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?