

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) No such request appears to have been received from Kerala Government. However, collections under VIDS scheme were shared with the States only. Total amount paid to Kerala as share in the proceeds of VIDS'97 is Rs. 279.76 crore.

Automatic Purchase Preference for PSUs

3716. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to withdraw Automatic Purchase Preference for Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) The existing policy of purchase preference for public enterprises, subject to stipulation therein, is valid upto 31.3.2000.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Vacant Post in SSI Service Institutes

3717. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether 70 per cent posts of the officers are lying vacant in the Small Scale Industry Service Institutes being run under his Ministry in the remote and backward areas of various States, particularly in Himachal Pradesh and as a result of which the establishment and development of Small Scale Industries in the States has come to standstill;

(b) if so, the number of posts of the officers lying vacant in the SSIs in Solan District of Himachal Pradesh and since when;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any latest survey regarding the requirement of officers in the Small Scale Industry Service Institutes at the above said place with a view to develop the Small Scale Industries in Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) In the Small Scale Industry Service

Institutes, 29 per cent of posts of Gazetted officers are presently vacant. In Small Industries Service Institute, Solan, there are 10 Gazetted posts. Out of ten, four posts are presently filled up. Statement showing the details of the posts lying vacant at SISI, Solan is given in statement.

The SISIs perform a supplementary role in the industrial development of States. The States over the years have created much larger structures for industrial promotion.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Internal Work Study Unit of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has conducted a work study in SISI, Solan. With regard to the Gazetted officers, work study had recommended as surplus one post of Assistant Director (Gr. I) (Mech.) which has been abolished. Work Study Unit has proposed the upgradation of the post of Assistant Director (Gr.I) (EI) to the post of Deputy Director (EI). However, this recommendation of upgradation has not been agreed to. Post of Assistant Director (Gr.I) (EI) has been retained.

Statement

Vacant post of Gazetted Officers at SISI, Solan

S.No.	Name of the post	No. of post	From which date
1.	Deputy Director (Chem.)	1	2.8.97
2.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.I) (G/C)	1	8.9.96
3.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.I) (EI)	1	3.9.98
4.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.I) (IMT)	1	1.7.93
5.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.I) (Chem.)	1	31.10.98
6.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.II) (EI)	1	20.5.97

[English]

FDI in Soft Drink

3718. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the soft drink industry from 1998 to February 15, 1999; and

(b) the estimated number of people directly employed in the soft drink industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Sir, the total inflow of FDI in Food Processing Industry Sector (including soft drink industry) during the period from January, 1998 to February, 1999 is Rs. 239.68 crore.

(b) Data on employment generation with specific linkage to FDI is not centrally maintained. Employment linkage is with reference to Industrial Approvals i.e. Letter of Intent (for Licensed Sectors) and IEMs (for Delicensed Sectors).

Such approvals are inclusive of projects involving FDI. Therefore, the employment projections made in LOIs or the IEMs are indicative of the employment likely to be generated as a result of Government's New Industrial Policy, 1991, including the Policy on foreign investment. During the entire post policy period (i.e. August, 1991 to December, 1998), 41220 IEMs/ LOIs/EOWs were filled envisaging investment of Rs.815057 crore, employment opportunities for over 72.89 lakh persons.

Tea Gardens

3719. SHRI ANAND PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the tea estates managed by the Tea Trading Corporation of India in West Bengal have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the name of those tea estates along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal for revamping these estates and ensure their smooth functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.(TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of State Trading Corporation is a loss making company. The Company owns four tea gardens located in West Bengal and one tea garden in Assam. TTCI is facing an acute financial crunch with an estimated liability around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.97. The Corporation is presently engaged with the following three options :

- (i) Outright sale of the shares of the Corporation;
- (ii) Bifurcation of the existing company in case (i) is not found possible; and
- (iii) STC to initiate liquidation proceedings in case option (i) and (ii) above are not found practicable.

[Translation]

Loan to Encourage Small and Cottage Industries

3720. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to simplify the conditions of providing loan for encouraging small and cottage industries is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the subsidy given to the women belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for small and cottage industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) It has been the endeavour of the Government to simplify the conditions of providing loan for encouraging small and cottage industries. In pursuance of the Seven Point Action Plan initiated in 1995-96 for improving flow of credit to small scale sector, measures have been taken for simplification of procedural formalities by the banks. The loan application form for loans upto Rs.2 lakhs has been simplified. The High Level Committee on credit to SSI (Kapur Committee) appointed by the Reserve Bank of India has also recommended various measures in its report submitted in June 1998 for improving credit delivery system and simplification of procedures for providing bank finance to the small sector. Some of the important recommendations accepted and under implementation by banks are :

- (i) Delegation of more powers to branch managers to grant ad-hoc limits.
- (ii) Freedom to banks to decide their own norms for assessment of credit requirement.
- (iii) Enhancement in the limit for composite loans from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs.

(c) and (d) There is reservation of 22.5% for SC/ST, 27% for OBC under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) scheme and preference is also given to women in the sanction of the loan for starting self-employment ventures. Subsidy is paid at 15% of the project cost or Rs. 7,500 whichever is less. Reserve Bank of India does not maintain data on subsidy amount paid to women belonging to SC/ST.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission provides 30 per cent margin money under Margin Money Scheme to women entrepreneurs including SC/ST for setting up village industries.

[English]

Losses in Showrooms of NTC

3721. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many showrooms run by National Textile Corporation are suffering losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to close down those showrooms which are suffering losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) NTC Group is having 332 showrooms out