

training; organisation of workshops on packaging; export marketing and documentation; designing; setting up of wood seasoning plant and common facility centre at Thiruvananthapuram and participation of handicrafts exporters from South India in Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (Autumn and Spring) held at New Delhi every year.

(c) to (e) The Regional Design and Technical Development Centre, Bangalore is proposed to be upgraded for which purpose, a study has been assigned to National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad.

[Translation]

Financial Deficit of Various States

3726. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the financial deficit of various States in the country is increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the total financial deficit of all the States during 1998-99;

(c) the percentage of the said deficit in relation to Gross Domestic Product of the country;

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to check it; and

(e) the State-wise details of the deficit and the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) The total fiscal deficit of the States has registered an increase during the last few years. The total fiscal deficit of States during the year 1998-99 (as per Budget Estimates) was Rs. 59522.80 crores. There is no natural correlation between the fiscal deficits of States and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). State-wise details of fiscal deficits are given in the Statement.

According to RBI, the fiscal health of States has been under stress in recent years, as evidenced by the rising deficits. The RBI has suggested that States embark more steadfastly than ever before upon a path of fiscal consolidation, with expenditure restructuring, cuts on non-merit subsidies and increases in user charges as major planks of action. Many State Governments on whom the financial burden of revision on pay scales is weighing heavily have sought assistance from the Central Government. While the Central Government has always extended help to the State Governments in times of need, the Central Government has also been exhorting the State Governments to put their finances on a sound footing.

Statement

Gross Fiscal Deficit of States for 1998-99(BE)

States	Amount (Rs. in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	3084.00
Arunachal Pradesh	93.40
Assam	959.20
Bihar	3897.80
Goa	218.90
Gujarat	2370.90
Haryana	2604.30
Himachal Pradesh	1452.30
Jammu & Kashmir	768.70
Karnataka	1901.30
Kerala	1607.60
Madhya Pradesh	3886.60
Maharashtra	7148.40
Manipur	174.50
Meghalaya	179.90
Mizoram	87.70
Nagaland	222.40
Orissa	2442.90
Punjab	2607.40
Rajasthan	3762.90
Sikkim	189.50
Tamil Nadu	4471.30
Tripura	329.10
Uttar Pradesh	10706.50
West Bengal	4355.30
Total	59522.80

Financial Assistance to Bharat Yantra Nigam

3727. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the area known as Naini industrial city of Uttar Pradesh is being totally neglected;

(b) whether Bharat Yantra Nigam under which there are six industries i.e. Bharat Pump and Compressor Limited, Triveni Structural Limited, etc., has been constituted to run the industries under Naini area smoothly;

(c) whether the financial assistance is being provided regularly by the Union Government to five industries out of the above through the Nigam while the employees of Triveni Structural Limited are not getting their salary for the last 5-6 months as the financial assistance was not provided to it;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take effective steps to ensure the payment of salary to the employees of TSL; and

(e) the time by which the payment is likely to be made to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) No, Sir. There are three public sector undertakings under the administrative control of Department of Heavy Industry having their industrial units in Naini namely M/s. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., M/s. Triveni Structurals Limited and M/s. Hindustan Cables Limited. Due attention is being paid by the Government of India for the working of the industrial units.

(b) M/s. Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited (BYNL) Allahabad, the holding company, was set up in the year 1986 with a view to improving the working/coordinating the working of the following six public sector enterprises :

1. M/s. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Limited, Allahabad,
2. M/s. Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam,
3. M/s. Bridge & Roof Company (I) Limited, Calcutta,
4. M/s. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd., Mumbai,
5. M/s. Triveni Structurals Limited, Naini, Allahabad,
6. M/s. Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Hospet.

(c) to (e) The Government of India have been providing budgetary support to public sector undertakings of the BYNL Group in the form of (a) plan assistance for purchase of capital equipments and acquisition of crucial balancing facilities; (b) Non-plan assistance for partial reimbursement of cash losses; and (c) Plan grant for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Schemes.

As Triveni Structurals Limited (TSL) was incurring losses and its networth had become negative it was referred to the BIFR during the year 1992. BIFR had sanctioned a rehabilitation package of the company on 22.9.1995 which envisaged infusion of funds to the extent of Rs. 29.22 crores, VRS grant

of Rs. 2.25 crores and capital restructuring by way of waiver/ conversion into equity of past Government of India dues amounting to Rs. 40.26 crores as on 31.3.1994. The performance of the company has not been in accordance with projections given in the BIFR sanctioned scheme. The company has been generating resources, which are not enough to meet entirely its requirement towards payment of salary and wages. In order to assist the company, the Government released Rs. 1.76 crores in February, 1999.

[English]

Exim Policy

3728. SHRI BHUMA NAGI REDDY :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI A. C. JOS :

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced Exim Policy (1997-2002) recently;

(b) if so, the main features of the new policy ;

(c) whether the advance licence scheme, export promotion capital goods scheme and duty entitlement pass-book scheme have been included in this scheme;

(d) if so, whether a number of items have been shifted from restricted list of Exim Policy to special import licence scheme; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and to what extent this scheme is likely boost exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced revised Exim Policy on 31st March, 1999.

(b) The main features of the Exim Policy are Computerisation and electronic filing of application for advance licence, making duty exemption scheme flexible, extension of benefit of zero duty EPCG scheme to chemicals plastics and textile sectors, additional facilities to gems and jewellery exporters, further rationalisation of EOU/EPZ scheme, export of services, encouragement to small sector export, creation of Ombudsman etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.