

(d) Yes, Sir. 414 items have been shifted from restricted to SIL list of Imports.

(e) The above step has been taken with a view to replacing discretionary control with adequate tariff protection. Free access to inputs is likely to help in augmenting production and would generate surplus for exports.

[Translation]

Loan and Grant to KVIC

3729. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the industries which were granted loans by Khadi and Village Industries Commission to set up small scale industries in Satna and Katni districts of Madhya Pradesh during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the budgetary provision made by the Commission for the above period and the expenditure incurred against the budgetary provision;

(c) the details of amount of loan and grant provided by the Commission for Rural Employment Generation Programme in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) whether KVIC propose to promote the handloom based industries in view of the adequate number of weavers in Satna district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The number of units for which Grants and Loans were provided by Khadi and V.I. Commission (KVIC) to set up Village industries in the District of Satna and Katni are given in the statement enclosed as annexure :

(b) The budgetary provision made and expenditure incurred for 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under :

Year	Budget Financial	Expenditure Financial
1997-98	73.00	0.78
1998-99	30.00	15.72
Total	103.00	16.50

(c) The details are given as a part of reply to Part (a) above.

(d) and (e) Under KVIC Act, weaving activity on handlooms with handspun yarn comes under Khadi. Weaving of mill made yarn is out of scope of the KVIC. In Satna district, 225 persons are engaged in the Khadi Sector.

Statement

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S.No.	Year	Name of Industries	No. of Units Setup	Financial Loan	Assistance Grant
1.	1997-98	Bricks Mfg.	01	0.22	0.09
		Power Attachacki	01	0.28	0.11
		Stores repairing	01	0.26	0.09
Total			03	0.76	0.29
2.	1998-99	Hiring of sound System	01	0.36	0.14
		Repair of Electrical Goods	01	0.45	0.17
		Indian Sweets	01	0.47	0.18
		Dal mill	01	5.85	2.42
		Avala prity	01	2.55	1.75
		Cycle Repair	01	0.63	0.24
Total			06	10.31	4.90

[English]

Rourkela Steel Plant

3730. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rourkela Steel Plant has been modernised;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon; and

(c) the time by which the company will start making profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The various facilities under modernisation project of Rourkela Steel Plant, except Reheating Furnace No. 5, have progressively been commissioned and are under stabilisation.

(b) The total amount spent till February '99 is Rs. 4255 crore (provisional)

(c) Financial Performance of the company is dependent on internal as well as extraneous factors. While the benefits of modernised facilities would materialise in phases, Plant has to absorb higher capital related costs because of capitalisation of modernised/capital schemes and also for

maintaining a higher inventory, which has been adversely affecting its financial performance.

Similarly existing extraneous factors like slowdown in demand for steel, greater competition from other domestic producers and imports and increased input costs have affected the financial performance. Profitability being dependent on such varied dynamic factors, predicting any time frame for plant to generate profits is not feasible.

Economic Inequality

3731. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has released any report regarding economic inequality among the World Bank aided countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons cited in the report for widening the economic inequality;

(d) whether the Government have gone through the report; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

Urban Banks

3732. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI has shifted the operation work of urban banks of some districts of Maharashtra from Mumbai to Nagpur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Marathwada Urban Cooperative Banks Association has requested the RBI to continue the earlier attachment of the urban banks in Marathwada region with Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the reaction of RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has shifted the regulatory work relating to 95 primary (urban) cooperative banks located in all the 7 districts of Marathwada region from Mumbai to Nagpur office. The transfer was effected in pursuance of policy decision of RBI to decongest some of the departments at Mumbai and also to render better customer services. Besides, it will be operationally convenient for the bankers and the public of the Region to visit Nagpur rather than Mumbai.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that no request from the Marathwada Region Urban Cooperative Banks, Association has been received to continue the earlier arrangement.

Misuse of Funds by Companies

3733. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of listed companies against whom action has been taken since April 1, 1994 till March 31, 1999 for misuse of funds by not applying the money for the purposes stated in the Offer Document at the time of their Public issue and Rights issue;

(b) the aggregate amount involved therein; and

(c) the number of companies against whom prosecution were launched for the misuse of funds or siphoning them off?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) According to Department of Company Affairs, provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 do not require that the Department of Company Affairs maintain information relating to use of proceeds of public issues by listed companies. However, as per information furnished by SEBI, 1893 companies came out with initial public offerings during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1997-98. Out of these, 41 companies are not traceable. The details of these companies have been forwarded by SEBI to Department of Company Affairs for appropriate action.

Fall in Prices of Natural Rubber

3734. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the natural rubber growers in Kerala are facing an acute crisis due to steep fall in prices of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the step taken by the Government to help the rubber growers in Kerala;

(c) whether Kerala Government have submitted any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to help the rubber growers in Kerala to get remunerative price for their produce, the Government of India is interalia engaged in a market intervention operation through STC for procuring rubber on Government Account and selling the same to Advance Licence Holders. The Government of India have also suspended import of rubber under Advance Licence w.e.f. 20th February, 1999.