

As an alternative to production and supply of washed coal, CIL had undertaken a detailed study regarding use of blended coal which may provide more cost effective solution. In this direction, CMPDIL has carried out a comparative techno-economic study comparing the cost of blending vis-a-vis washing in case of a select thermal power station (Ropar TPS) in the Northern Zone.

Permanent Exhibition Centre Near Bangalore

3754. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the proposal from the Government of Karnataka for setting up of a permanent exhibition centre at Whitefield, Bangalore on the lines of Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi; .

(b) if so, the cost of the above proposal;

(c) whether the above Centre would be set up through a joint venture company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the contribution of the Karnataka Government for the above project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (e) The Central Government is not setting up permanent exhibition centres in any State. However, the Government is encouraging State Governments, including the Government of Karnataka, to undertake such projects for helping regional industrial units to promote their products. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of Karnataka and ITPO for setting up an Exhibition Complex at Bangalore through a joint venture company . The cost of the project is presently estimated at Rs. 200 crores out of which the Government of Karnataka's share of Rs. 10.00 crores will be in the form of 50 acres of developed land including infrastructure. ITPO's equity contribution will be Rs.10 crores.

Import of Silk

3755. SHRI JAYARAMA I. M. SHETTY :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to withdraw notification permitting import of silk;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto ;

(c) the impact of the sericulture industry by permitting the import of silk;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage indigenous sericulture industry in the country ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Karnataka had recently written to the Minister of Textiles not to permit import of silk except under Duty Exemption Scheme. CM, Karnataka has been apprised that due to non-availability of adequate quantity of superior quality silk in the country, the Government has permitted import of only Grade 2 A & above mulberry raw silk under SIL with the condition that the CIF value of the surrendered SIL is three times the value of the imported items. Weavers Association have written to the Government welcoming the above decision of the Government. Till date, there has been no negative impact on the domestic sericulture sector.

(d) and (e) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of Schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural and extension support to the sector through network of CBS's units and implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk.

Closure of Blended Yarn Spinning Industry

3756. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of units in the blended yarn spinning industry have been closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise and;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) As on 31.1.1999, 4 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills were permanently closed under industrial Disputes Act; 48 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills were closed under Liquidation, and 246 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills were reported to be closed temporarily mainly due to financial difficulties, strike/labour problems, lock out etc. Data on closure of blended yarn producing units is not maintained separately. A Statement indicating the State-wise details is attached.

(c) Government has established Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act,1985 to tackle the problems of sickness.