

Privatisation of STC and its Subsidiaries

3768. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the recommendations of Disinvestment Board to privatise the affairs of State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and its subsidiaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEDGE) : (a) and (b) No Sir.

Fifth Pay Commission

3769. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government have approached the Union Government for Central assistance on account of revision of pay scales made by the States of their employees after the revision of pay scales of Central Government employees on the basis of recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of Central assistance sought by each State;

(c) whether Sikkim and Special category States are being accorded any special consideration on this account;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the Central assistance provided to each State so far ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) to (e) An official committee is being constituted in the Planning Commission to formulate State specific medium term fiscal reform policy linked to a package of immediate assistance to States. The Committee will consider all relevant issues pertaining to their fiscal position, including additional burden on account of implementation of 5th Pay Commission recommendations. The Committee will work out a separate package for special category States. In the meanwhile, discussions are being held in the Ministry of Finance with the States that have approached for immediate assistance.

Statement

Requests received from State Governments seeking additional financial assistance from the Central Government in connection with revision of the Pay of their employees.

S.No.	State	Request
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs.1500 crore per annum as grant-in-aid.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 100 crores for the year 1998-99 as 50% outright grant and 50% Interest free Loan.
3.	Assam	Rs. 700 crore per year upto year 2000 as grant.
4.	Bihar	50% as grant of Rs.8000 crore projected for the 9th Five Year Plan on salary may be met by Govt. of India.
5.	Goa	Rs. 50 crore as Ways and Means Advance for the year 1997-98.
6.	Gujarat	Grant-in-aid to meet the extra burden in the range of Rs.2000 crore to Rs.2200 crore for the year 1997-98 including arrears and Rs.800 crores-Rs.1000 crore per annum thereafter.
7.	Haryana	Additional Central assistance of Rs. 500 cr. as annual requirement and Rs. 1200 crore for the payment of arrears etc; modality may be worked out in a meeting of Chief Ministers.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs.800 crore as outright grant or 90% grant and 10% loan or as long term loan.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 50 crores as additional central assistance for 1996-97 and Rs. 800 crores as a additional central assistance for 1997-98.
10.	Karnataka	Rs.1400 crore per annum. 50% of this amount may be provided as grant.
11.	Kerala	(i) A grant of an amount equivalent to 50% of the incremental expenditure on account of Pay/Pension revision.

1	2	3
	(ii)	An interest free advance equivalent to the total annual commitment on account of Pay/Pension revision.
12.	Maharashtra	Rs.5000 crore per annum and Rs. 8000 crore by way of arrear.
13.	Manipur	Rs. 74 crore per annum and Rs.112 crore for arrear payment in the shape of matching financial assistance.
14.	Meghalaya	Rs.95 crore per annum and Rs.155 crore for 1997-98 as grant-in-aid.
15.	Mizoram	50% of the additional monthly burden of Rs.5 to 6 crore may be borne by the Central Government.
16.	Nagaland	Rs. 240 crores annually.
17.	Orissa	Annual liability would be around Rs.700 crores for revision of Pay scales of State Government's employees. Central Assistance for this may be provided.
18.	Punjab	50% of the additional annual burden of Rs. 660 crore may be borne by the Central Government.
19.	Rajasthan	Rs. 1200 crore annually in the shape of grant-in-aid / interest free medium term loan/ ways and means advance from RBI at 'zero' rate interest.
20.	Sikkim	Rs. 100 crore as Central assistance.
21.	Tripura	Rs. 350 crore for the year 1997-98 as special grant-in-aid.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Additional resources of Rs. 2000 crore annually.
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Special central assistance to the extent of extra expenditure.
24.	West Bengal	50% of the additional burden of Rs. 2500 crore annually as grant from the Central Government.

[Translation]

Revival of CCI

3770. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revival scheme for the Cement Corporation of India has been under consideration of the Government for eight months after the recommendation of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR);

(b) whether the Government propose to revive Cement Corporation of India (CCI);

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in this regard ;

(d) the action being taken by the Government in regard to those thousands of labourers who are on the verge of unemployment and starvation due to the passive attitude of the Government towards the revival scheme;

(e) whether the action is being taken in regard to selling out viable units instead of non-viable units which is against the recommendation of the B.I.F.R. ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) BIFR had circulated a Draft Revival Scheme (DRS) for the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) on 12 June 1998. After considering the views of the various state holders the BIFR observed on 1 March, 1999 that the DRS circulated earlier was no longer valid and that it would circulate a new DRS. Government will finalise its stand once the new DRS is circulated by BIFR.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Sale of any unit would be carried out only with the approval of BIFR.

[English]

Import of Silk

3771. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of factors which prompted the Government to lift ban on import of silk/raw silk recently;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the decision will hit the indigenous silk-weavers/cottage industries; and

(c) if so, the justification of such a decision and the steps taken to protect the interests of domestic industry ?