

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Import of silk continues to be in the restricted list. For exporters the facility of importing silk under the Duty Exemption Scheme is available. In addition, to meet the demand for superior quality mulberry raw silk, the Government have decided to allow import of only Grade 2A and above mulberry raw silk under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the condition that the CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value of the surrendered SIL shall be three times the value of the imported goods.

- (b) Till date there has been no adverse impact.
(c) Does not arise.

Amendment in Chit Funds Act, 1982

3772. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka regarding amendment of Section 20 of the Chit Funds Act, 1982 as per the direction issued by Karnataka High Court in response to the writ petition No. 17110/84;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the date since when the proposal is lying pending with the Union Government;
(d) the reasons for delay in taking the decision; and
(e) the time by which the decision on the proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in Writ Petition No. 17110/84 had directed that the provision of Section 20 of the Chit Funds Act, 1982 may be amended so as to provide for release of interest on the securities given by the foreman. After examining the matter it was felt that it may not be necessary to amend Section 20 of the Chit Funds Act, 1982 but only to amend the rules framed thereunder to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Court. It was therefore, suggested to the State Government of Karnataka in the year 1990 to arrange to amend Rule 16 which deals with 'Procedure for release of security' by inserting a suitable sub-clause so as to enable the Registrar to release the security together with interest, if any, accrued thereon, and remaining unpaid.

(c) to (e) The administration of the Act is governed through the Rules framed by the State Governments in consultation with RBI. Therefore, necessary steps for amendment to the Rules need to be initiated by the State Governments. RBI have further reported that the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of Karnataka has been releasing the security deposit to the foreman together with interest on the deposit in terms of the Hon'ble High Court's order.

[Translation]

Celebration of Golden Jubilee Year of Official Language

3773. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Implementation Committee has been constituted to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Official Language; and
(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be constituted alongwith the details of schemes for celebration in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, necessary directives have been issued to all the Offices/Undertakings/Boards etc. under the administrative control of the Ministry, to organise various Hindi programmes to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Year of the Official Language. These programmes include— (1) organising Hindi Workshops to remove the hesitation of the Hindi knowing employees to work in Hindi; (2) emphasising on training in Hindi, Hindi Typewriting and Hindi Stenography; (3) making the best use of all the trained employees; (4) organising Official Language conferences; and (5) increasing the use of Hindi on Computers etc.

[English]

Revival Strategy of Central Coalfields Limited

3774. SHRI M. RAJAI AH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Coalfields Limited has prepared any revival strategy; and
(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) No revival strategy has so far been prepared by the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). However, the Board of Directors of CCL in their meeting held on 17.2.99 have considered following measures for improving the financial position and coal production of the company:

- (i) Consolidation of the capacity of the coking coal washeries of CCL for washing of 7 million tonnes of raw coking coal per year.
(ii) Washing of non-coking coal through the washeries at Kargali, Gidi and Piparwar to achieve reduction of ash content of washed non-coking coal.
(iii) Increasing production level substantially.