

(d) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government regarding the problems of farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The prices of raw silk fluctuates from time to time. There has been marginal decrease in the prices of raw silk and cocoons in the last few months.

(b) and (c) Uprooting of mulberry bushes does take place from time to time depending on market conditions of different agricultural commodities. No authentic report has been received regarding recent uprooting of mulberry bushes in Karnataka.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received representations from different quarters in Karnataka seeking reversal of Government's decision to permit import of raw silk under Special Import License (SIL). The Government have also received representations from Weavers Association commending the Government for permitting such import under SIL.

Decline in Mica Mines

3782. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mica mines have declined from 800 to 30 in recent years and resulting a number of workers became unemployed;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for revival of mica mining industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per the information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines during the last ten years the total number of mica mines in the country have declined from 148 in 1988-89 to 54 in 1997-98. Similarly, average daily employment of labour in these mica mines has also declined from 3105 to 1002 in the corresponding years.

(b) The main reasons for declining trend in mica industry are : (i) lack of demand for Indian sheet mica in international market due to development of substitute for mica; (ii) mica mines are not economically viable; (iii) inadequacy of exploration work; and (iv) availability of large size sheet mica in mines has become scarce.

(c) From time to time, the Government of India have set up Working Groups/Committees on mica to investigate problems of the mica industry. The Working Group for surveying present and future demands of mica in India and High Power Committee on mica were set up which have submitted

reports during 1989 and 1990, respectively. As per these reports, unless the demand for mica in domestic and international markets improve, the scope of revival of mica industry in the country will continue to be rather limited. For improving the viability of internal consumption as well as export, Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has set up value added mica products units such as (i) silvered mica and capacitors ; (ii) micronised mica powder; (iii) mica paper based on mechanical disintegration process and (iv) mica paper based insulating material plant.

Further Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) officers visit mica mines for guidance and proper mine development. IBM has carried out research and development activities such as : (i) identify guides for location of mica shoots; (ii) model mining plan has been prepared for mica mines which is available for reference of mine owners at regional offices of IBM at Ajmer, Nellore and Ranchi. IBM has also circulated separate guidelines for preparation of Mining Plans for mica mines.

Duty Draw Back Racket in Garment Export

3783. SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH :

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have unearthed duty draw-back racket in garment export;

(b) if so, the details of such fake firms and the official of various departments involved therein;

(c) the details of the racket unearthed during 1998-99; and

(d) the action initiated against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The officers of Department of Revenue have unearthed in 1998-99 a number of fraudulent claims of duty drawback in garment exports. Some of the exporting firms are non-existent and prima facie fake and certain unscrupulous parties have been found engaged in planned abuse of Drawback facility - specially in cases detected by DRI. The names of these firms, and approximate Drawback amounts involved, on the basis of available information is given in the Statement (attached). The fraudulent or improper drawback claimed/attempted to be claimed in these cases is mostly either by way of misdeclaration of nature of goods exported or their value/quantity.

Where goods have not been exported before detection of fraud claims, the goods were detained/seized by DRI/Customs authorities pending investigations and action as per

Customs Law. In 5 cases registered by Custom Houses adjudication proceedings have been completed and the firms involved penalised to the extent of Rs. 73.5 lakhs. They have also been permitted to redeem their goods on payment of redemption fine of Rs.45 lakhs. Action in regard to remaining cases is under process. 18 persons have been arrested in these cases so far. Two Customs Superintendents and 3 Customs Inspectors have also been placed under suspension for their suspected involvement in some of these cases.

Statement

Name of Firms involved in fraudulent claim of duty drawback

Sl. No.	Name of the firm	Approx. Drawback amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Himgiri Overseas	741	Prima facie fake
2.	M/s. Saharanpur Handicrafts		-do-
3.	M/s. Stitch and Style		-do-
4.	M/s. Deepshikha Overseas		-do-
5.	M/s. R & S Company		-do-
6.	M/s. Rohil International	131	-do-
7.	M/s. Manitoba Inc.		-do-
8.	M/s. Brooks Int.		-do-
9.	M/s. Overseas Business		-do-
10.	M/s. Glowbus Office Equipments (P) Ltd. Delhi	139	-do-
11.	M/s. CMC Exim (P) Ltd. Delhi		-do-
12.	M/s. Victor International Delhi		-do-
13.	M/s. P.S. International, Tugalkabad	19	-do-
14.	M/s. Classic Copier	42	
15.	M/s. Parnav Sai, Tirupur	5	
16.	M/s. Wonderland Trading Co.	17	
17.	M/s. Sat Export India	9	
18.	M/s. Glints Global	29	

1	2	3	4
19.	M/s. Balaji Universal (P) Ltd.	8	
20.	M/s. Saniya Enterprises	6	
21.	M/s. Handloom only	41	
22.	M/s. Rednick International	36	
23.	M/s. Reco Industries	3	
24.	M/s. Shakti International	17	
25.	M/s. Sagar Overseas	22	
26.	M/s. Sunil Trading Co.	20	
27.	M/s. Om Prakash Bhatia	22	
28.	M/s. Chetan Impex India	18	
29.	M/s. Kanak	28	
30.	M/s. Visage Overseas	2	
31.	M/s. Meghna Fashions	2	
32.	M/s. Hari Manarack	6	
33.	M/s. Akansha Overseas	14	
34.	M/s. Himanshi Exports	24	Prima Facie fake
35.	M/s. Chetan Impex	19	-do-
36.	M/s. Santo Exports	5	
37.	M/s. Priti Exports	5	
38.	M/s. Raiment Garments	14	
39.	M/s. Vestures India Ltd.	8	
40.	M/s. Al-huda Intl.	11	
41.	M/s. Fairdeal World Impex, New Delhi	15	
42.	M/s. Deepa Impex, Mumbai	8	
43.	M/s. Ekta Exports	21	
44.	M/s. Awtn Exim Co.		
45.	M/s. Select Garments		
46.	M/s. Sun Impex Inc.	252	
47.	M/s. Integrated Fashion Ltd.		
48.	M/s. N.Y. Blue		
49.	M/s. Morning Star		

1	2	3	4
50.	M/s. True Art Trade Link		
51.	M/s. Trade Art India	50	
52.	M/s. Wahiba Chemical Corpn.		
53.	M/s. Shivraj Exports		
54.	M/s. India Exports Co.		
55.	M/s. Fitwell Garments		
56.	M/s. Ind. Fashions Exports (Pvt) Ltd.	43	
57.	M/s. Medident India (P) Ltd.		
58.	M/s. Sali Exports	47	
59.	M/s. Tirpati Garments		
60.	M/s. Jyoti Trading Co.		
61.	M/s. Crown Sales Corpn.	93	
62.	M/s. Nitu Fashion		
63.	M/s. Vicario International		
64.	M/s. Sam Overseas	23	
65.	M/s. Seva Sees Exports		
66.	M/s. Golden Exports	127	
67.	M/s. Sagar Trade Lines.		
Total Drawback Claimed		2143 lakhs	

Posting of Geologist

3784. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Director, Co-ordination of Coal India Limited wrote to all the CMD's in December, 1975 to attach geologist to each area for continuous inspection, compilation, presentation and monitoring of geological information and data;

(b) if so, whether during the sixteenth meet of CMD's held on December 29, 1987, it was accepted in principle that the posting of a geologist in every area is worthwhile;

(c) if so, whether the Government intends to implement these decisions for conservation of coal, better quality control, maintenance of environment and day-to-day mine planning;

(d) if so, the date by which the said decision is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Director (Coordination), Coal India Limited vide letter dated 30.12.75 addressed to the Managing Director, Bharat Coking Coal Limited suggested that in consideration of complexity of the mining problems in Jharia Coalfields a Geologist should be attached to each area for continuous inspection, compilation, presentation and monitoring of geological information and data for the benefit of the area and colliery executives and for the purpose of preparing geological plans with mining orientation. Such geologists can also render assistance to the colliery executives whenever any geological disturbance is encountered or when any special problems arise on account of proximity of coal fires, water logged working, barriers, dykes, sills, jhama etc. A copy of the said letter was endorsed to the Managing Director, Western Coalfields Limited/ Eastern Coalfields Limited/Central Coalfields Limited.

(b) In the 16th CMDs meet held on 29.12.87 at Calcutta proposal for posting of a geologist in every mine was discussed. The proposal was accepted in principle for those areas which may need full-time geologists. CMDs were to decide the specific areas which may need full-time geologists.

(c) to (e) The decision has since been implemented and the subsidiary-wise posting of geologists is given below:

Position as on 01.11.98

Company	Sanctioned Strength	Working
E.C.L.	6	10
B.C.C.L.	4	9
C.C.L.	16	22
N.C.L.	1	1
W.C.L.	8	6
S.E.C.L.	12	6
M.C.L.	5	3
CMPDIL	178	162
NEC/C.I.L	5	4
Total	235	223

[Translation]

Rules for Collaboration

3785. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of any violation of rules laid down for investment in India in collaboration with foreign company;