

2/3 wheelers consist of various provisions under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawbacks Scheme, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, Assistance from Market Development Fund etc. Engineering goods exporters also receive promotional support through various activities of the Engineering Export Promotion Council.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Open Institutes Abroad

3790. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide grants and subsidy to open Institutes abroad to give encouragement to export and to monitor the export potential from abroad; and

(b) if so, the estimated amount incurred under above heads during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Coal Mines

3791. SHRI C. P. M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to spend a sum of Rs. 800 crore for development of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of mines which are likely to be developed by NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) In the context of long term linkages of their Talcher STPS- II (2000 MW) and Seepat Thermal Power Station (2000MW), NTPC agreed to provide interest bearing advance of Rs. 400 crores each for opening of Bhubaneshwari Project of MCL and a dedicated mining block of Korba coalfield of SECL. The projects will be developed by the MCL/SECL. CIL has entered into an MOU with NTPC for the above funding.

Schemes of UTI

3792. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different schemes in which UTI has invested its funds;

(b) whether the Government propose to evolve mechanism to look after the funds being invested by the UTI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) According to Unit Trust of India, there are over 70 domestic Schemes which are managed by UTI. These Schemes satisfy varied investor needs and are managed as per the UTI Act under the general Superintendence and direction of the Board of Trustees which act on business principles so as to safeguard the interests of the unit holders. The investment policy of each of the schemes varies with the objective of the scheme as disclosed in the offer document of the respective scheme.

Handloom Sector

3793. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the "Solapur Zilla Yantramag Dharak Sangh" against the proposed inclusion of Terry-Towels and chaddars in the list of items reserved exclusively for the handloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Solapur Zilla Yantramag Dharak Sangh has made a representation in January 1999 stating that the proposed inclusion of Terry-Towel under the Handloom Reservation Order dated 26.7.96 would affect the small powerlooms engaged in the production of Terry-towels, in and around Solapur and also would affect the export market created by the powerloom sector over past three decades.

(c) The issue is under consideration. The Advisory Committee duly constituted under Section 4 of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985, would examine this issue and make its recommendations. After receipt of the recommendations of this committee, Government will take suitable decision on the issue .

[Translation]

Export of Hand Tools

3794. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether hand-tools have been exported in large quantity from Punjab;

(b) if so, the value of the hand tools exported during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have explored the possibilities for more exports by this industry; and

(d) if so, the facilities provided by the Government to promote this trade during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The value of exports of Hand-Tools from India, including from Punjab has been as under :

Year	Value in Rs. Crore#
1995-96	256.95
1996-97	256.73
1997-98	250.12

Source : Engineering Export Promotion Council, New Delhi

(c) and (d) There is no exclusive scheme for promotion of export of hand-tools. However, promotion of exports of this item, like other items in the Engineering Sector has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures being provided to boost exports of engineering goods including that of hand-tools consist of various provisions under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, Assistance from Market Development Fund etc. Engineering goods exporters also receive promotional support through various activities of the Engineering Export Promotion Council.

[English]

Lignite Reserves in Rajasthan

3795. COL. SONA RAM CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge Lignite reserves has been found in various parts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether extensive presence of thick Lignite seams have been found in Barmer Graben, which is now considered as the "northern continuity" of the Cambia basin;

(c) whether coal based methane has also been found in commercial quantities in the sun-surface Lignite deposits of the Combay basin;

(d) if so, whether the Government have prepared a specified programme to exploit maximum quantity from the area for economic development of Thar desert and to generate employment opportunities for rural youths; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Lignite reserves estimated at 1,467 million tons have been indentified in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan.

(b) Two thick lignite seams ranging from 2-8 metres and 4-14 metres respectively have been found in the Sindri area in Sanchore basin of Barmer Graben.

(c) Coal Bed Methane has been found in sub-surface lignite deposits in the Gujarat part of Combay basin.

(d) and (e) The Government of Rajasthan has prepared a proposal for assessment of coal bed methane in Barmer area and has referred it to the Director General of Hydrocarbons, Government of India for consideration. Exploitation on a commercial scale can be thought of only after a detailed assessment. In all, seven blocks have been indentified for assessment covering an area of 3,532 square km in the Barmer Sanchore basin area.

Retirement Age of Employees of PSUs

3796. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Central PSUs have not yet decided on enhancement of retiring age for their employees;

(b) if so, the names of PSUs which have yet to implement the decision on enhancement of retiring age with reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government have issued guidelines to the PSUs in this regard for implementation and details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to ensure that guidelines are uniformly followed by the PSUs in implementation of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of the 142 PSUs in respect of whom information is readily available only 4 have not yet implemented the decision. The names of these PSUs along with reasons for non-implementation are given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued to all the administrative Ministries/Departments and PSUs on 21.8.98 stating that the decision regarding enhancement of age of retirement is binding and in case any administrative Ministry or PSU does not want to increase the age of retirement, specific exemption from operation of this decision would be necessary.