

Statement

Names of PSUs which have not enhanced the age of retirement of employees from 58 to 60 years.

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Reasons
1.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	Both have been declared sick by
2.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corp. Ltd.	BIFR and have idle manpower.
3.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	Poor financial health Disinvestment Commission has recommended closure of some activities and also strategic sale of one unit.
4.	Spices Trading Corpn.Ltd.	Administrative approval of the Ministry of Commerce is being sought by the Corporation.

[Translation]

Selling of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited

3797. DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS :

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

SHRI ABHAY SINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI BIKAS CHOWDHURY :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell out Majority Share or Shares of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith percentage of its shares likely to be transferred to its strategic partner and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have held any dialogue with the employees Union before taking such a decision;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plan chalked out by the Government for the rehabilitation of employees likely to become jobless ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present Government holds the entire equity of Rs. 488.85 crores in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO). Government have decided to divest 51% of Government's equity to a strategic partner to be selected through a global tender. The strategic partner is expected to bring state-of-the-art technology and fresh investment for modernisation and expansion.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) was advised to explain the position to the Union operating in BALCO that the employees have nothing to lose by the strategic sale of Government equity.

(e) The Government has not worked out any rehabilitation plan, as infusion of fresh resources by the strategic partner is expected to result in sustained employment.

Export Inspection Council

3798. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of export oriented units inspected by the Export Inspection Council during the year 1997-98;

(b) the total number of export oriented firms against whom the council has received complaints and have been kept in the black list;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to take action against the firms listed therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Nil, Sir. 100% Export Oriented Units have been exempted from compulsory pre-shipment inspection vide Notification No. S.O. 929(E) dated 4.12.90 issued under the provisions of Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

(b) Nil.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Export of Sports Goods

3799. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the foreign exchange earned through the export of sports goods along with the quantity of sports goods exported during 1998-99, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HAGDE) : Foreign Exchange earned through export of sports goods is Rs. 246.91 crores (US \$ million 58.80) during April-January, 1999. Quantitative data on export of sports goods is not being monitored.

Sports Goods are exported to more than 100 countries, details of which are available in the export statistics of "foreign trade statistics of India published by DGCI & S, Calcutta". However, country wise exports to top 10 countries were as under during April 98 to January 99:-

Country	Rs. in Crores	in US \$ M
U.K.	50.30	11.98
Australia	27.89	6.64
USA	47.91	11.41
Germany	19.26	4.59
South Africa	15.55	3.70
Italy	11.23	2.67
France	8.88	2.11
UAE	8.39	2.00
Netherlands	4.26	1.01
Newzealand	4.47	1.06

[English]

Foreign Posting of SBI Officers

3800. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign countries in which group 'A' officers of the State Bank of India are posted;

(b) the number out of them belong to SC/ST; and

Year	Mill made Fabrics	Powerloom Fabrics	Knitted Fabrics	Cotton Yarn	Sewing Thread	Cotton Made-ups	Total
1997-98	16530.21	21908.25	3004.27	58584.16	72.33	31072.29	131171.51
1996-97	15738.07	20020.97	3462.18	53668.22	62.94	25574.43	118526.81
% growth/ decline	5.03%	9.43%	-13.23%	9.16%	14.92%	21.50%	10.67%

(c) The main reasons for the decline in the exports is due to the melt down of the South East Asian markets which accounts for 49% of the exports of cotton yarn and 22% of the total cotton textiles exports.

(d) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of textiles, such as encouraging exporters to

(c) the plan of action to fill up the fixed quota of foreign postings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that there are 253 offices (belonging to different grades) posted in bank's offices in foreign countries at present, out of which 23 belong to SC/ST category.

(c) There is no quota allocated to SC/ST officers for foreign postings, which is based on a approved selection process. However, bank provides pre-selection training to SC/ST officers so as to enable them to perform effectively in the selection process.

Decline in Export of Cotton Textiles

3801. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton textile export has decline during 1998 as compared to 1997 shipments of cotton yarns and knitted fabrics ;

(b) if so, the details with comparative figures of total cotton textile exports during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) As far as the overall total exports of cotton textiles are concerned exports have increased by 9.12% during the year 1998 as compared to the total exports in 1997. However, in the case of exports of cotton yarn, the exports have declined by 3.12% on rupee terms as compared to exports in 1997. In the case of knitted fabrics, exports decreased by 7.31% in rupee terms during 1998 as compared to exports in 1997.

(b) The comparative figures of export of cotton textiles during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given below :-

(Figures in Million Rupees)

Year	Mill made Fabrics	Powerloom Fabrics	Knitted Fabrics	Cotton Yarn	Sewing Thread	Cotton Made-ups	Total
1997-98	16530.21	21908.25	3004.27	58584.16	72.33	31072.29	131171.51
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% growth/ decline	5.03%	9.43%	-13.23%	9.16%	14.92%	21.50%	10.67%

participate in buyer-seller meets fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials, ensuring increased availability of export credit etc. Recently, Government have announced specific measures for boosting cotton yarn exports which include de-linking of cot-