

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the High Court has given any decision for these employees; and
- (e) if so, the names of the areas where the said decision is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The rates of Special Compensatory Allowance (Hill Areas) admissible to the Central Government employees posted at all places (including places in Himachal Pradesh) which are located at an altitude of 1000 metres and above Mean Sea Level are as follows :-

Pay Range	Rate per month (Rs.)
Below Rs. 3000/- p.m.	100
Rs. 3000/- p.m. to Rs. 4499/- p.m.	140
Rs. 4500/- p.m. to Rs. 5999/- p.m.	240
Rs. 6000/- p.m. and above	300

(d) and (e) The details of the High Court decision, if any, are being ascertained.

[English]

Gold Import

3816. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of gold imported into the country during the last two years; and
- (b) the quantum of gold sold to jewellery exporters out of such imported gold?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Information is as follows :-

	(Quantity in Tons)	
Quantity of gold	1996-97	1997-98
Imported	338.190	626.394
Sold to jewellery Exporters	28.635	39.619

[Translation]

Deduction of Income Tax of Arrears

3817. SHRIMATI NISHA A. CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government employees could show the amount or arrears accrued to them as a result of Fifth Pay Commission by splitting this amount in respective years in the Income Tax Returns filed with concerned Pay and Accounts Officers;

(b) whether these employees could be compelled to show the amount of expected arrears in current Income Tax returns;

(c) if so, the policy guidelines prescribed in regard thereto;

(d) whether there is any rule also to charge interest alongwith surcharge on income tax of current years alongwith the income tax deducted pertaining to the arrears;

(e) whether clearcut guidelines have been issued to Pay and Accounts Officers in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reasons for committing such irregularities while assessing the Income-tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Salary income, including arrears of salary, is subject to Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) at the time of payment even if such arrears pertain to the years other than the current year. However, in terms of S.89 of I.T. Act, the Govt. employees are entitled to relief in respect of arrears of salary having been received in any one financial year for more than 12 months on account of which income is assessed at a rate higher than that at which it would otherwise have been assessed. Further, as per Section 192 (2A) of I.T. Act, such employees claiming relief u/s 89 are required to furnish the details of such arrears in Form 10E to the person responsible for deduction of tax at source. Thereupon, the officer so responsible shall take into account the particulars so furnished and compute the relief and take it into account in making deduction of tax under sub-section (1) of Section 192 of the Income-tax Act.

(c) Apart from the statutory provisions in this regard annual TDS circular No.757 dated 21.10.1997 for financial year 1997-98 and No.771 for financial year 1998-99 issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes clarify the position.

(d) There is no such rule to charge any interest at the time of deduction of tax at source.

(e) As per reply given in part (c) above.

(f) In view of the reply given above, there is no question of any irregularity as such.

[English]

Export of Readymade Garments

3818. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of ready-made garments/textiles/handlooms made during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is any decline in export of the above items during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The exports of readymade garments (including handloom garments) and textiles (including handloom textiles) during the last three years were as follows:-

	Value in Million US Dollars	
	Garments	Textiles
1996-97	4762.10	5288.23
1997-98	4910.70	5629.32
1998-99 (upto Feb'99)	4767.60	4888.40

(b) and (c) There is no decline in exports of readymade garments. However, there is a decline of 4.1% in dollar terms, in respect of textiles during 1998-99 (till Feb'99). The main reasons for decline in exports are South-East Asian currency crisis, recession in some of the textile importing countries etc.

(d) In order to encourage the export of textiles and garments from India, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to 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 for export production, etc.

Production Capacity of Neelanchal Steel Plant

3819. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the targeted production capacity (in million tonnes) of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd., Sukinda (Orissa) and the time by which it is likely to become fully operational; and

(b) the infrastructural developments made by the State Government at the site as per schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The targeted production capacity of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) at Duburi, district Jajpur, Orissa is 1.16 million tonnes per annum of pig iron and steel. The plant is expected to be fully operational by middle of 2001. Infrastructure such as road, power etc. are being provided by the State Government as per the requirement of the steel plant.

Minar Project in Laxmi Nagar, Delhi

3820. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) when the Minar Project in Laxmi Nagar, Delhi was set up;

(b) whether the Project is intended to house offices of various public sector undertakings;

(c) the amount being paid by the Public Sector Undertakings to SCOPE Minar building;

(d) whether the financial aid provided to PSUs from the Government was diverted to this Minar Project;

(e) whether any Screening Committee was formed to select the architect; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the architect and the amount paid to the foreign consultant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (d) The Minar Project in Laxmi Nagar, Delhi was set into motion in 1983. 41 PSUs at present have booked different space in the building, and have so far paid Rs. 173.70 crores towards this Project.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise. No amount has been paid to any foreign consultant by SCOPE.

India Engineering Trade Fair

3821. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of countries participated in the Thirteenth India Engineering Trade Fair held in New Delhi in February, 1999;

(b) the names of Indian industries which took part in the above Trade Fair;

(c) whether the Maharashtra has played a partner State role and Korea is a partner country in the said Trade Fair; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) 47 countries participated in the India Engineering Trade Fair 1999.

(b) India Engineering Trade Fair '99 was an all industry Fair and companies from various sectors of Indian industry participated in it.