

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) operated Korea Pavilion extending over 5000 sq. mtrs. 150 Korean companies displayed a range of products like confectionary, healthcare products, kitchenware appliances, live stock and poultry equipment, medical products, optical frames and lenses. Events like seminars, conferences, food festivals, cultural shows and film shows were also organised by Korea.

Maharashtra, the Partner State, displayed its diversified industrial sectors covering automobiles, information technology, infrastructure and consumer goods, electronics, refractories, transport systems, agro products, tourism and road development etc.

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

3822. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the modernisation cost of Durgapur Steel Plant has gone up to above Rs. 6000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contract of computer in the division of Production Planning and Control has increased from Rs. 8 crore 75 lakhs to Rs. 26 crores; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The revised cost of Durgapur Steel Plant Modernisation project is estimated to be Rs. 4871 crore (base date : IIIrd qtr.1998).

(c) and (d) The total cost of the Production Planning and Control (PPC) Computerisation package is Rs. 26.10 crore, which includes contracts for building and software development etc., besides the contractual value of Rs. 8.75 crores for computer hardware.

Revival/Production of Textile Mills

3823. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production in the textile mills of the National Textile Corporation, the State Textile Corporation and private sector located in Maharashtra between January, 1996 and January, 1998 and till January 1999, year-wise and the number of workers employed in them;

(b) the number of textile mills lying closed in the State

and the measures taken by the Government to revive the closed textile mills, mill-wise ; and

(c) the steps taken to provide employment to the workers and for their rehabilitation who have been rendered unemployed because of the closure of above mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The total production of spun yarn and cloth by the mills of NTC, State Textile Corporations, private sector and cooperative sector in Maharashtra during 1996, 1997 and 1998 is as follows :

Year	Spun Yarn Production (000 kgs.)	Cloth Production (000 Sq. mtrs.)
1996	3,92,401	7,60,005
1997	4,10,393	7,15,325
1998	3,87,421	7,03,797

Figures for January, 1999 are not available.

The total number of workers in the textile mills of Maharashtra is as follows :-

Year (as on 1st January)	No. of workers
1996	2,09,342
1997	1,96,473
1998	1,89,589
1999	1,84,505

(b) and (c) No mill under NTC in the State has been closed although there is total/partial cessation of activities in some of the mills due to acute shortage of working capital. Since 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR, on the basis of a unit-wise viability study conducted by NTC, a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC including NTC (MN) and NTC (SM) alongwith the viable mills under them based on the BIFR norm of net worth of these mills turning positive within the prescribed period is under consideration. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

As on 31.12.98, 24 textile mills were reported to be lying closed in the State of Maharashtra. Government has set up the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (CIFR) which is entrusted with the responsibility of rehabilitation of the sick companies. In regard to rehabilitation of the workers rendered jobless due to closure of the mills, the Government has formulated a scheme called Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme being implemented by the office of Textile Commissioner. Under the scheme, Interim relief is provided

to the workers rendered jobless due to partial/complete closure of private sector mills only.

Outstanding Amount Against Iraq

3824. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount of unrealised bills of Indian exporters and outstanding receivables of Indian Public Undertakings from Iraq Government;
- (b) since when these are pending; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to realise the above amount from Iraq at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Total amount of outstanding in respect of projects executed by Indian companies in Iraq as on April 12, 1999, based on receivables certified by Central Bank of Iraq (CBIq)/Rafidain Bank (RB) and under Line of Credit (LOC) extended by Exim Bank to RB, is US \$ 867.69 mn. (The amount does not include bills submitted by Indian Companies but not yet certified, war claims and other compensation amount). The details of these receivables are as under :-

(i)	Outstanding amount in the case of projects covered under the Indo-Iraq Govt. to Govt. Deferred Payment Arrangements (DPA) certified and advised by CBIq.	US\$ mn 635.12
(ii)	The amount outstanding in respect of projects outside DPA, (of which an amount of US \$ 141.73 mn has been confirmed by CBIq/RB and the balance amount is awaiting confirmation)	183.44
(iii)	Of the above indicated amounts, amount receivable by public sector companies	311.74
(iv)	Amount receivable by Exim Bank from RB under the LOC extended by EXIM Bank to RB	49.13
Total		867.69

(b) So far, 7 DPAs have been signed between Governments of India and Iraq giving schedules of payment due under each DPA, under which payments were being received in oil. Last DPA was signed in 1990 under which entire payment was to be made by April 1, 1996. However, no payment was received from Iraq subsequent to August 1990, Gulf crisis. In respect of projects outside DPA, the same were com-

pleted between the period 1988 to 1992 and no payments have been received since the completion of the projects.

(c) Recovery of dues from Iraq was in the form of crude oil upto August, 1990 under DPAs. Subsequent to August 1990, as no DPA has been signed between Governments of India and Iraq, there is no agreement on any mode of repayment. During the 12th Session of Indo-Iraq Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Co-operation held during August 31- September 2, 1998 in New Delhi, Indian side conveyed its concern regarding in overdues in respect of projects under DPA, outside DPA and Exim Bank LOC. The Iraqi side took note of the same and reiterated its commitment to positively address the matter after the lifting of Sanctions of Iraq.

Special Drive for Refund of Transport Subsidy

3825. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether refund orders for transport subsidy to the employees of Central Government/PSUs for the assessment year 1997-98 have since been cleared;
- (b) if not, the position thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has now fixed any target date to clear all the refund cases mentioned above; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) Transport allowance was paid to all Central Government employees with effect from 01/08/1997 after deducting tax at source. Subsequently, through a retrospective amendment to the relevant rules, such transport allowance was held to be exempt. Accordingly, a large number of refunds arose in the case of Central Government employees for assessment year 1998-99. Where special counters for receipt of return were opened as part of an effort to provide better service, returns were processed under section 143 (1) (a) across the counter and refunds were also issued simultaneously.

All the remaining refunds will be issued at the time of completion of processing of the returns in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

The Department does not maintain separate statistics of refunds arising out of excess tax paid on transport subsidy.

Export Areas in Bihar

3826. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the main areas identified in Bihar for export during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps proposed to concentrate more on export of agricultural products from Bihar?