

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?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce do not have any scheme to identify areas for exports from different States. However, it takes into consideration various commodities/products with export potential on the basis of their competitive edge.

(c) Agricultural and processed Food Export Development Authority have identified litechi for export from Bihar and have initiated a number of measures to boost its export including training programmes for production of quality litechi, engaging services of foreign scientists and shipment of litechi through reefer containers etc.

State Governments and Export Promotion Councils identify area with reference to exportable products and formulate projects for removal of infrastructural bottlenecks in exports from such areas. Government of India provides assistance under the Critical Infrastructure Balance scheme of Ministry of Commerce to such Projects for promotion of exports from these areas.

Central Silk Board have established a certification centre at Bhagalpur to assist silk exporters.

An Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) in Hajipur, District Vaishali has been sanctioned.

Community and Welfare Works in Andhra Pradesh

3827. SHRI S. S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of community development and welfare works undertaken by Coal India Limited in the coalfield areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years ;

(b) the amount spent by the CIL thereon during each of the last three years in the State and other Coal producing States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Since Coal India Limited does not have any mines in Andhra Pradesh, no community development and welfare works are undertaken by Coal India Limited there.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, the accounts for the financial year 1998-99 have not yet been finalised. The amount spent on Community Development and welfare works in other coal producing States during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 by Coal India Ltd., and its subsidiaries State-wise, is given below :-

| | | (In Rs. Lakhs) | | |
|----------|-------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Company | State | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 (provisional) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E.C.L. | W. Bengal & Bihar | 52.81 | 39.92 | 35.66 |
| B.C.C.L. | Bihar | 51.00 | 56.68 | 45.19 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------|--|--------|--------|----------|
| C.C.L. | Bihar | 76.60 | 70.91 | 71.16 |
| W.C.L. | M.P. & Maharashtra | 29.69 | 11.62 | 65.14 |
| S.E.C.L. | M.P. | 156.26 | 155.10 | 250.52 |
| M.C.L. | Orissa | 256.33 | 458.60 | 590.14 |
| N.C.L. | MP & UP | 30.97 | 61.39 | 35.54 |
| N.E.C. | Assam | 9.55 | 11.81 | 18.20 |
| CMPDIL | Bihar, W. Bengal, MP, Maharashtra & Orissa | 40.56 | 0.40 | 50.00 |
| Total | | 703.77 | 866.43 | 1,161.55 |

Tax Evasion by Foreign Companies

3828. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign companies like Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Hyatt Hotel, Samsung Electronics have been found evading the income tax in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the modus operandi thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such guilty companies;

(d) whether there is any proposal to check on the evasion in respect of all foreign companies in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) During certain surveys carried out by the field formations of the Income Tax Department, it was found that a large number of companies including those mentioned in part (a) of the question, were paying a substantial part of the salaries and the allowances to the expatriate employees in their home country, but they were not deducting the income tax due on such amounts. After initial surveys, several foreign companies voluntarily came forward and declared the amounts due on payments made to their expatriate employees in their home countries. All companies where such modus operandi is detected have been asked to pay the tax along with the interest due and a substantial portion of the same has been paid.

Necessary action as per law in respect of all the requisite cases shall be taken to check the non-deduction of tax at source on the component of the salary paid to the expatriate personnel outside India.