

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) , inter alia, analyses the factors that determine, FDI inflows. While India is rated very high in terms of quality of manpower and market size, its ranking is low in the scale of infrastructure.

(c) Several measures have been taken to promote FDI in infrastructure development which, inter alia, includes :- automatic approval up to 100% in sectors such as power, roads and highways, and ports and harbours; setting up of independent regulatory authorities such as Central Electricity Regulatory Authority, (setting up of an ING authority and an authority for petroleum down-stream sector is under consideration); liberal External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms for infrastructure projects; attractive tax incentives; etc.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Parwana Stone-Mines

3842. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have framed rules for modernisation of stone-mines at Parwana near Mumbai ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 'No Objection Certificate' has been made mandatory for the modernisation of these Stone-Mines; and

(d) if so, the concrete programme being drawn to provide employment opportunities to the people who are likely to be rendered jobless as a result of this mandatory provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. As per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act (MMRD Act) 1957 and Rules framed there-under mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments only. However, for minerals listed in Schedule I to the MMRD Act 1957, prior approval of the Central Government is required to be taken before grant of mineral concessions. Grant of mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals are governed by the Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the respective State Governments. As per Section 3 (e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, building stones come under the category of Minor Minerals and therefore framing of rules of grant of mineral concessions for building stones including modernisation of stone mines comes within the purview of the State Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Closure of Spinning Mills in Orissa

3843. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of spinning mills have been closed down in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number thereof;

(c) the reasons for the closure of those mills;

(d) whether any steps have been taken for the revival of those mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) As on 31.1.99, the following two spinning mills have been closed in the State of Orissa :-

1. Lingaraja Textiles P. Ltd., A/68, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar (Closed due to financial difficulties).

2. Bhaskar Textile Mills, Industrial Estate, Sambalpur, Jarsuguda, Orissa (Details of closure are being called for).

(d) and (e) Government has established Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 to tackle the problems of sickness. Lingaraja Textiles has been registered with the BIFR and the mill has been declared as non-maintainable by the BIFR.

(f) Does not arise.

Container Corporation of India

3844. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the Container Corporation of India under the direct control of his Ministry;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints from the CONCOR Union regarding corruption and atrocities on SC/ST staff; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.