

(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.

- (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Strike by NTC Workers in 1982

3845. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of workers who have not been reinstated after the strike of 1981 in the N.T.Cs mills in Mumbai;
 (b) the number of workers who have since expired and have not been paid their arrears of gratuity so far;
 (c) whether the Government propose to reinstate the workers who went on strike;
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (e) the time by which arrears of gratuity to the family members of such workers are likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) As per the information available, 5118 employees of mills under NTC (MN) Ltd. have approached the Courts for their reinstatement and 5664 employees of these mills have approached neither the management nor the Courts for their reinstatement. In NTC(SM) Ltd., 2087 employees have not been reinstated after the 1981 strike.

(b) The number of such workers who have expired is not available.

(c) to (e) The workers who have been ordered to be reinstated by the Courts are being reinstated after due identification and will be paid all dues including gratuity according to the decision of the Courts.

[English]

Defaulting Payment to Provident Fund Board by MAMC

3846. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. is continuously defaulting since 1990 in making payment to the exempted Trustee Board of Provident Fund, the due amount, after deducting the same from the salary of the employees alongwith Management's contribution;
 (b) if so, the accumulated outstanding amount arising out of the above;
 (c) whether due to failure to liquidate the outstanding employees are subjected to serious sufferings in general and those who have retired in particular;

(d) whether this act, both on the part of Management and Promoters, also call for penal action as per Statutory provisions;

(e) whether while initiating penal actions for such offence, discriminations are being meted out between Public Sector Promoter and Private Sector Promoter, where, in the fitness of things, it was expected that Public Sector would set up some example in dealing with such statutory outstanding;

(f) whether the Government have directed on 28th May, 1998 to the Management of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation to ensure full payment of P.F. dues in future to the appropriate authority to avoid further complications;

(g) whether the Government have assured the Central Provident Fund Commissioner that some action had been initiated to liquidate the whole liability on account of employees' related Statutory Provident Fund dues; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Due to acute financial crisis the company has not been able to deposit the Provident Fund amount with the P.F. Commissioner.

(b) Rs. 23.65 crores as on 31.3.1999.

(c) to (e) The accumulation of dues has taken place due to the inability of the company to generate enough resources. However, Government has recently released Rs. 50.66 crore for statutory dues including Provident Fund to MAMC. With this the position has improved considerably.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h) On 28.5.98 Central Provident Fund Commissioner was informed that a proposal is under consideration of the Government to liquidate the liability on account of employees related statutory dues.

[Translation]

Gross Domestic Product

3847. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product;
 (b) the extent of success achieved by taking these steps to increase the growth rate; and
 (c) the manner in which growth rate is being monitored by the Government and since when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) to (c) As a result of various economic policies undertaken by the Government, the overall growth measured