

in terms of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) at factor cost (at 1993-94 prices) increased from 5 per cent in 1997-98 (Quick Estimates) to 5.8 per cent in 1998-99 (Advance Estimates). The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in the Department of Statistics compiles and publishes annually the estimates of GDP. These estimates of GDP are available from the Year 1950-51 onwards.

Tax Evasion by ACC, Kanpur

3848. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tax evasion has been committed by the "A.C.C. Group of Companies" ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) References from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and tax evasion petitions have been received alleging evasion of taxes by the Associated Cement Company, its officials at Kanpur and dealers at Deoria in U.P. These allegations will be enquired into at the assessment stage.

[English]

Tariff on Textile Sector Items

3849. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the pressure from the European Union over the rising controversy on overshooting 1998 garment quota entitlement, India has agreed to bind import of duties on a wide array of textile sector items with the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether this exercise is likely to cover more than 200 tariff lines of various categories;

(c) if so, whether once the customs duty rates are irrevocably bound with the WTO, India would not be in a position to impose higher tariffs on these items; and

(d) if so, to what extent it is likely to affect India's textile exports ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) In the Indo-EU MOU on market access for textiles and clothing products signed on 31.12.1994, which provided mutual benefits, Government had agreed inter-alia to bind tariffs at agreed levels by notifying to the WTO in respect of the textile items listed in the MOU covering 220 HS lines.

(c) Through such bindings remains generally irrevocable, provisions are available under the W.T.O. dispensa-

tions to raise the levels in certain cases following specified procedures.

(d) Under the MOU, India had agreed to bind its tariff in return for greater market access for exports from India.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

3850. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDAY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited obtained a contract in 1989 to make a model of Raw Material handling complex, supply and handling over of equipments for the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, whether the company has suffered a loss of Rs. 58.41 lakhs for not availing the exemption available under Central Excise Duty Act; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the officers found guilty of putting the company to loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) had paid Rs. 58.41 lakh upto 15.5.1993 in compliance with the directives of the Controller, Central Excise, Bolpur for 2613 Tonne fabricated structures. This has been paid "under protest" pending final judgement of the Supreme Court on the issue of excisability of fabricated structures.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

[English]

Resurgent India Bonds

3851. SHRI MADAN PATIL :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the position regarding utilisation of funds mobilised under Resurgent India Bonds Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are wasting the proceeds of Resurgent India Bonds of last year's by parking it at much lower rates abroad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Out of the amount collected viz. US \$ 40.23 bn (Rs. 18,051 crore) a sum of Rs. 15,801 crore (eq. of