

Statement*Interest on Small Savings Schemes*

Name of the Scheme	Rate of Interest per annum	
	Prior to 1.1.99	w.e.f. 1.1.99
1. Post Office Savings Account	5.50	4.50
2. Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 years)	12.50	11.50
3. Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (6 years)	13.00	12.00
4. Post Office Time Deposit		
(a) 1 Year Deposit	10.50	9.00
(b) 2 Year Deposit	11.00	10.00
(c) 3 Year Deposit	12.00	11.00
(d) 5 Year Deposit	12.50	11.50
5. N.S.C. VIII Issue (6 years)	12.00	11.50
6. National Savings Scheme 1992 (4 Years)	11.00	11.00
7. Indira Vikas Patra	13.43	12.25
8. Kisan Vikas Patra	13.43	12.25
9. Public Provident Fund Scheme (15 years)	12.00	12.00

Anti-Dumping Duty

*260. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Japan may drag India to WTO over anti-dumping" appearing in 'The Statesman' dated February 13, 1999;

(b) if so, whether Japan has threatened to take India to the WTO protesting imposition of anti-dumping duties on certain items; and

(c) if so, the details of the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, Japan has addressed the Government through Notes Verbale sent from Embassy of

Japan, New Delhi seeking clarifications on the preliminary findings in the Anti-Dumping investigations concerning industrial sewing machine needles and Styrene Butadiene Rubber.

(c) No provision of the Multilateral Trade Agreements has been violated regarding anti-dumping by India. Antidumping proceedings in India are in accordance with Section 9(a), (b) and (c) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended from time to time and the Rules made thereunder, which are in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Anti-Dumping.

[Translation]

Dispute on Contract Workers of BHEL

2509. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a dispute with regard to the contract workers of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bhopal is going on since long;

(b) the present issue between workers and management; and

(c) the action taken or likely to be taken on such issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) The Theka Karamchari Samukta Morcha has been raising demands on various issues concerning them from time to time.

(b) and (c) Discussions take place between Morcha Leaders and the Management. The Management has resolved the relevant issues suitably and explained other issues to the Morcha Leaders.

[English]

Cultivation and Export of Cashew

2510. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide any assistance for the cultivation and export of cashew; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Cashew with a view to enhance the production and productivity of cashew was implemented during the VIII Plan, with an outlay of Rs. 5800 lakhs. The scheme was continued during the year 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs. 16 crores and during 1998-99 with an outlay of Rs. 2000 lakhs as per the

approved pattern of assistance. Apart from the above, the Directorate of Cashew Development, Cochin is providing assistance to the State Governments for establishing regional nurseries, model clonal cashew gardens and farmer's training programme. Besides the above, under all India Coordinated Research Projects of ICAR research studies on cashew through its seven regional centres are being carried out. For export promotion of cashew, assistance is being provided for participation in international fairs and exhibitions, organising buyer-seller meets, dissemination of information through publications and circulars, establishment of testing facilities, acquisition of latest packaging systems to improve the quality of cashews for exports and for improving quality standards of cashew kernels by adopting, ISO 9000/HACCP Quality Control System and for technology transfer/process upgradation/modernisation of cashew processing units.

Thermal Power Project with French Technology

2511. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern coalfields Limited had undertaken a Thermal Power Project with French technology;

(b) if so, whether ECL had spent Rs. 18 crores for this project;

(c) whether Rs. 8 crores out of Rs. 18 crores were spent towards journey to France by experts;

(d) whether ECL has failed miserably in implementing the Project since the Gas Turbine procured from France could not produce even 1 MW of electricity;

(e) whether most of the spare parts of the Gas Turbine have been stolen; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir. CIL has reported that ECL had not undertaken any thermal power project with French technology. However, a gas turbine project with French technology was undertaken by ECL.

(b) ECL has spent Rs. 11.20 crores for procurement, installation and commissioning of gas turbine project.

(c) ECL has spent Rs. 3.46 lakhs (including Rs. 2.85 lakhs in foreign exchange) towards journey to France by experts for training.

(d) No, Sir. The gas turbine were operated for a total period of 3636 hours and produced 39.30 million units of power delivering peak load to its rated capacity of 5MW.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable in view of reply at 'e' above.

Closure of BOGL

2512. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 25 crores is allocated by the Central Government for closure of Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited which could have been made viable at Rs. 20 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether upon closure of BOGL, 1500 MT crore Glasses are to be imported; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) BIFR, to whom BOGL stands referred as a sick company under the SICA, has not yet formulated any scheme for revival of the company nor has it expressed an opinion as to the viability or otherwise of the company. Funds have been allocated by Government under the Voluntary Separation Scheme for giving workers the option of taking up voluntary retirement, in view of the low level of production activities in the company.

(c) and (d) Import of glasses are undertaken as per the provisions of the Export-Import policy and are dependent among other things on relative costs and prices of imports and domestic production.

General Insurance Corporation

2513. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) propose to introduce 'check-off system' to decide the numerical strength of unions operating in the industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms presently followed for inviting unions for talks for settlement of wages and service conditions of the employees;

(d) whether there is resentment among the unions against the 'check-off system' and the Unions have made representations against the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken proposed to be taken thereon;

(f) whether the 'check-off system' is the only course to find out the numerical strength of the Union.