

(NALCO) by conversion of paid-up equity of face value of Rs. 644.31 crores being 50% of the existing paid up equity capital of Rs. 1288.62 Crores of NALCO into debt carrying interest @ 14.5% p.a. Government's portion of the debt would subsequently be sold in the market.

(c) The Capital Restructuring will lead to improvement in Earning Per Share (EPS) corresponding to the extent of reduction in equity. The Government of India, being the largest share holder is expected to benefit out of this exercise. Moreover, the sale of Government's portion of the debt is expected to fetch Rs. 561 crores.

#### Investment Limit of SSIs

2567. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the investment limit for Small Scale Industries against the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received numerous representations against this reduction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the Laghu Udyog Bharati function held on 29th April, 1998, the Prime Minister announced that the investment limit for SSI units would be reduced from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 1 crore.

(c) to (e) Representations both for upward revision of the investment limit as well as for reduction of investment limit have been received. On consideration of various issues, it has been decided to reduce the investment limit from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 1 crore. Follow up action is being taken by the Government.

#### Aluminium and Alumina Plant in East Coast

2568. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Aluminium and Alumina Plant in the East Coast; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There is

no proposal to set up any greenfield Aluminium and Alumina Plant in Public Sector in the East Coast.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Export/Import with Bangladesh

2569. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of items exported to Bangladesh and the items imported in India from Bangladesh during 1998-99, till date;

(b) whether the trade balance with Bangladesh is favourable;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the existing gap of trade balance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The value of exports from India to Bangladesh during April-November, '98 was Rs. 2247.21 crores against imports of Rs. 134.04 crores from that country during the same period. The major items exported to Bangladesh from India are rice (other than basmati), cotton yarn, fabrics, machinery and instruments, glass/glassware/ceramics, cement, coal, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, transport equipment, primary and semi-finished steel, rubber manufactured products, manufacturers of metals, etc. The major items imported from Bangladesh are textile yarn, fabrics and made up articles, inorganic chemicals, raw jute, leather and raw and waste cotton.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Export of Leather Goods

2570. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :  
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of leather goods has gone down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of countries to which leather goods are exported in largest quantity;