

(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;

(d) the foreign exchange earned from export of leather goods during 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of leather goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir. However, status of export of various other leather products is at Statement attached.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Germany, USA, UK, Netherlands and Australia top the list of countries to which leather goods are exported in largest quantity.

(d) the Foreign Exchange earned from export of leather goods during 1997-98 was to the tune of US\$ 259.66 Million. For the period April-November, 1998-99 exports of leather goods have registered a growth of 65.46% over the corresponding period of 1997-98.

(April-November)

1997-98 US\$ 170.42 Million.

1998-99 US\$ 281.97 Million.

(e) Various measures including fiscal measures in the form of duty concessions have been initiated. Import duty on capital goods has been brought down. Duty on some of the inputs used by the leather goods industry has also been brought down. Market Development Assistance is provided to small scale exporters for promotion of exports.

Statement

Statement of Export of Leather and Leather Products

(Million US \$)

Sl. No.	Product	1997-98	1997-98 (April-November)	1998-99	% change
1	Finished Leather	287.50	202.53	172.52	-14.82
2	Leather Goods	232.84	170.42	281.97	65.46
3	Leather Garments	412.84	299.20	254.55	-14.92
4	Leather Footwear	271.46	193.25	130.77	-32.33
5	Footwear Components	238.29	167.22	162.03	-3.10
6	Saddlery & Harness	26.82	18.94	18.16	-4.12
Total		1469.75	1051.56	1020.01	-3.00
		37.1648	36.1236	41.8592	

Fire Incidents in Coal Mines

2571. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of coal mines of various companies where fire incidents took place during 1997-98 and 1998-99 along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the names of coal mines where fire could not be extinguished till date;

(c) the total loss of coal and revenue suffered by each company in such fire incidents; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of fire incidents in future and the expenditure incurred on extinguishing fire during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The details are furnished in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The coal locked in areas, which have been isolated or sealed off to cut off the oxygen supply, will be recovered after the fire has died out. Thus the loss of coal is negligible.

(d) The following steps are being taken to prevent occurrences of spontaneous heating in the mines of Coal India Ltd. :-

1. In underground mines the provisions laid down in the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, and the recommendations made by the Directorate General of Mines Safety are complied with vide technical circulars issued from time to time and working the seams in panels of appropriate size keeping in view the incubation period, regular monitoring of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and temperature in depillaring districts for early detection of heating, cleaning of fallen coal, inspection of old workings and depillaring districts on idle days and surface blanketing to prevent breathing of air into areas from which coal has been extracted etc.
2. In opencast mines any spontaneous heating is quenched and coal mined out.

Expenditure incurred for extinguishing the fire is part of regular revenue expenditure incurred in construction of isolation stoppings, fire stoppings, water spraying, stone dusting etc.