

Setting up of Carpet Technology Institute

2597. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up an Indian Institute of Carpet Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the place where it is likely to be situated; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to promote handicraft development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) A proposal to set up an Institute of Carpet Technology has been sanctioned at Bhadohi. The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 18.04 crores (approximately) and the same will be completed in three years time. Accordingly various steps have been initiated to make the Institute operational.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to promote handicrafts in the country include : training; marketing development; design development; setting up of new emporias and renovation of existing emporia; setting up of craft development centres and workshop-cum-housing etc.

BIFR

2598. SHRI RAJ BANSI MAHTO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Finance Reconstruction (BIFR) is on the verge of defunct;

(b) if so, the circumstances leading to such a situation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir, The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that during the year 1998 (1.1.1998 to 31.12.1998) 453 references were received from Sick Industrial Companies. Out of these, 370 sick industrial companies were registered with the BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). A total of 141 cases were disposed by BIFR during the year 1998.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Terminator Gene Technology

2599. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval of Terminator Gene Technology into India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers and Non-Government Organisations from various parts of the country have raised objections for allowing the entry of the said technology into India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) The Government has not accorded any approval for entry of Terminator Gene Technology into India and has already initiated measures to restrict entry of Terminator Gene Seeds into India. The Ministry of Agriculture have taken various precautionary steps and issued an order which among other things compares a rigorous drill to be followed by the "import permit issuing authorities" of the country, the moment they come across request for import of seed.

Tea Board

2600. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tea has been sold by the Tea Board during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Tea Board propose to extend its sales service network; and

(c) if so, the areas where the Tea Board intends to establish its new branches. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Tea Board is not normally involved in buying and selling of Teas for commercial purpose. However, Tea Board maintains Promotional/PR Outlets at various places in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Debt Relief Grant by Japan

2601. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI MADAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japan has decided to extend Rs. 6.9 crore debt relief grant to India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(d) the schemes/projects where this grant is likely to be spent; and

(e) the time by which the grant is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An agreement in the form of Exchange of Notes has been signed in this regard on 11th February, 1999.

(c) to (e) The grant is available for utilisation through import of machinery, equipment and material, based on agreed list of commodities, and is allotted to State Governments/Central Ministries/PSUs after scrutiny of their proposals.

Export of Coir and Coconut Products

2602. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of coir and coconut products have declined in the recent years;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of coir and coconut products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The total value of coir and coir products and coconut products exported during the last three years are as under :-

Quantity : in MTs

Value : In Rs Lakhs

Year	Coconut (Fresh, dessicated and dried)			Coir and Coir Products		
	Quantity	value	%growth in value terms	Quantity	Value	% growth in value terms
1995-96	174	44.49	236	48276	206.85	20
1996-97	381	146.45	229	46369	212.59	3
1997-98	182*	88.22*	(-)40*	49850	238.93	12

(*Data pertains to Apr., 97-Feb,98)

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta and Coir Board, Cochin)

(c) Exports are mainly in the coir products segment which has shown a positive trend during the last three year. Some of the steps taken for enhancing production and productivity of coconut and exports of coir products inter-alia include :-

- (i) Production and distribution of quality plant material;
- (ii) Promotion of Integrated farming in coconut holdings;
- (iii) Area expansion.;
- (iv) Implementation of Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar;
- (v) Undertaking of joint publicity programmes with British and German Coir Association for promoting consumption of Indian Coir;
- (vi) Participation in important trade fairs/exhibitions;
- (vii) Organising seminars for popularising the use of coir geo-textiles.

Proposals from Foreign Companies in Mining Sector

2603. DR. SAROJA V. :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals received from the foreign companies interested to invest in the mining sector;

(b) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has approved some of these proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the details of the areas identified for this purpose, Mineral-wise and Metal-wise;

(d) the amount likely to be invested under these proposals; and

(e) the number of foreign companies which have commenced the mining operations by December 31, 1999, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) From September, 1992 to 6th March, 1999, the Foreign