

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested the Union Government to constitute a Joint Committee to monitor the working and revival of the Eastern Coalfields Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) A State Level Joint Monitoring Committee was set up by the Government of West Bengal on 24.12.98 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, West Bengal. In addition to the representatives of the Government of West Bengal, the Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) were represented in the Committee. Only one Trade Union was initially represented in the Committee. By an amendment effected on 30.1.1999, the Government of West Bengal included five more Trade Unions in the Committee. Before constituting the Committee, the Government of West Bengal did not seek for the concurrence of Ministry of Coal. The composition of the Committee and its terms of reference were decided solely by the Government of West Bengal without any consultation with the Ministry of Coal.

#### Quantitative Restrictions on Export of Rice

2660. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Ministry has sought quantitative restrictions on export of rice;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure buffer norms before export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Review of Export import Policy of agricultural products, including rice, is an on-going process and accordingly Policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary keeping the interests of domestic producers, consumers and industry in view. Consultations in this regard between various Ministries including Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs and exporters/importers are held from time to time. As per the current EXIM Policy, export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) is free subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

(c) The total minimum stock to be maintained by public agencies under the new buffer stocking policy w.e.f. 30.10 98 and stocks available are as under :-

Date	Million Tonnes					
	Rice		Wheat		Total	
	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies
1st April	11.80	13.05	4.00	5.08	15.80	18.13
1st July	10.00	12.04	14.30	16.48	24.30	28.52
1st Oct.	6.50	8.96	11.60	15.24	18.10	24.20
1st Jan.	8.40	11.69	8.40	12.70	16.80	24.39

(Source : Min. of Food)

[Translation]

#### Export of Pulses

2661. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :  
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and the varieties of pulses imported/exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the foreign exchange spent/earned through its import and export;

(c) whether the Government propose to export gram pulse;

(d) if so, the quantity of gram pulse proposed to be exported during 1999-2000, country-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of pulses imported and exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (April-November'98) are as follows :-

Year	Quantity : MTS Value in Rs. crores			
	imports		exports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1997-98	659396	833.64	160183	354.74
1998-99 (Apr.-Nov.98)	208870	274.23	75050	160.96

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Some of the varieties of pulses imported include Peas (Pisum Sativum) Dried and Shelled, Chickpeas (Garbanzos) Dried and Shelled, Beans of The SPP Vigna Mungo.

Hepper, Small Red Beans Dried and Shelled, Kidney Beans including white Pea beans Dried and Shelled, Lentils (Mosur) Dried and Shelled, Broad Beans and Horse Beans Dried and Shelled, Grams (excluding split) Dried and Shelled, Gram Dal (Grams, split), Moong, Tur and Urad.

Some of the varieties of pulses exported include are Peas (Pisum Sativum) Dried and Shelled, Chickpeas (Garbanzos) Dried and Shelled, Beans of the SPP Vigna Mungo, Hepper, or vigna Radiata, wilozek Dried and Shelled, Kidney Beans including white Pea beans Dried and Shelled, other beans Lentils (Mosur) Dried and Shelled, Broad Beans and Horse Beans Dried and Shelled, Grams (excluding split) Dried and Shelled, Gram Dal (Grams, split), Moong, Tur and Urad.

(c) and (d) As per current EXIM policy export of pulses (including Gram) in consumer packs upto 5 kg is free. The quantity of pulses including gram to be exported during 1999-2000 would depend upon the international demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, availability for exports and ability of the exporters to meet the quality standards of the overseas buyers.

(e) In order to enhance the export of value added pulses, the export of pulses in consumer packs have been made free w.e.f. 1.12.97. This policy has since been continued during 1998-99 also.

[English]

#### Duty on Waste Paper

2662. DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce of Industry has given suggestions for using waste paper to meet the shortage of newsprint and appealed for abolition of duty on waste paper to save foreign exchange on import of newsprint:

- (b) if so, the details of points suggested; and  
(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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) and (b) The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry had, in their pre-budget memorandum, suggested exemption from Basic Customs Duty and Special Additional Duty of Customs on import of waste paper.

(c) The current rate of import duty on waste paper is 5.5 %, excluding Special Additional Duty wherever applicable. Taking all aspects into account, request for exemption from import duty was not acceded to.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Mini Tool Rooms and Training Centres

2663. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme is being run by the Government for setting up of "Mini -Tool Rooms" and "Training Centres" in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the names of places where such training centres have been set up during the last three years till date along with the names of places to which approval has been given;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for setting up of Mini Tool Rooms and Training Centres in Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) None so far.

(c) and (d) Yes, proposals from Karnataka and Kerala are under process for approval. In respect of Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, the State Governments have communicated their intention of setting up of Mini Tool Rooms and Training Centres but are yet to submit Detailed Project Report. Their cases will be processed only after the Detailed Project Reports are submitted by them.

[English]

#### Revival of Warrangal Mill

2664. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ajamzahi Mill Workers in Warrangal are demanding revival of the mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the other measures taken for revival of mill under the National Textiles Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHI RAM RANA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The workers unions have demanded that the mill should be started as a Composite mill by raising necessary finances by the management and also modernising the existing mill.

On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around