

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The Bhatt Committee constituted on 25th January, 1972 was asked to identify specific areas where legislation on Small Scale Industries is considered necessary and draft legislation. Consequently, IDR Act was amended in 1984 to make legal provisions for reservation of items for manufacture in Small Scale Sector. The definition of small scale sector is governed by IDR Act. The Delayed Payment Act exclusively for Small Scale Industries was promulgated in 1993 to ensure prompt payment. This act was amended to make it more effective in August, 1998.

Upgradation of Products of HEC

2695. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Heavy Engineering Corporation is negotiating with some foreign firms for upgradation of its products;

(b) if so, the names of the foreign firms with whom the negotiations are in progress and other details thereof; and

(c) the extent of profitability of the product ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (c) Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC)'s discussions with various companies are only at an exploratory stage. At this juncture it may not be in the interest of HEC to disclose the names of these companies. The profitability of products would depend upon a variety of factors like technology choice, process and material costs which have not yet been tied up given the very preliminary stage of discussions so far.

Royalty on Transfer of Technology

2696. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the ceiling on royalty on transfer of technology in order to attract state of art technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) As per the present policy, approval for technology transfer is given through Automatic Route by RBI or by the Government. The proposals approved through Automatic Route have standard royalty of 5% for

domestic sales and 8% for exports, net of taxes and for all other cases no ceiling of royalty is prescribed and such cases are considered for approval on merits by the Government.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

2697. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Golden Handshaker/Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of banks and other financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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 such proposal has been received from financial institutions and public sector banks so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fifth Pay Commission

2698 SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to replay given to Unstarred Question No.3247 on December 18, 1998 regarding Fifth Central Pay Commission and state :

(a) whether the decision in regard to parts (c) and (d) of the reply has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The demands relating to the pay scales of Assistants and UDCs are to be considered by the Department of Personnel and Training as the nodal agency concerned. According to the information furnished by that department, there is no proposal presently under consideration to revise the pay scale of the Assistants in the Central Secretariat. The Fifth Central Pay Commission had also not recommended any upward revision of their pay scale.

The demand of the Staff Side in the Departmental Council of the Department of Personnel and Training for increasing the pay scale of UDCs was referred to the Board of Arbitration under the JCM Scheme. The Board had rejected the demand.

The financial implications of accepting the demand for increasing the Transport Allowance from a minimum of

Rs.100 per month to Rs.400 per month will be substantial. The present constraints of resources and the imperative need to minimise administrative expenditure may not permit its acceptance. Besides, the rates already approved by the Government are based on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission and it will be premature to revise these rates at this stage.

U.S. Embargo on Women Blouses

2699. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. has imposed an embargo on shipments of women's blouses from India for overshooting the important quota earmarked by Washington under the category;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to resolve the matter with U.S. authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the decision of U.S. authorities in this regard;

(f) whether the Government propose to inquire the matter of mishandling of the quota; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) (a) and (b) The United State had imposed embargo on shipment of women's yarn dyed blouses, falling under category 341-Y, which is a sub-category of category 341, from India with effect from November 4, 1998, as annual level of this sub-category had been exceeded as

per US figures. While adding the special shift of 5% from category 641 to category 341, US authorities did not add the same to the 341-Y segment.

(c) to (e) Government have taken up the matter with US authorities to resolve the issue; but the matter could not be resolved. However, the shipments held up on account of embargo have already been cleared in 1999.

(f) and (g) There has not been mishandling of quotas.

[Translation]

Coal Deposits in Bihar

2700. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of coal deposits in Bihar;

(b) the details of coal deposits in Kusaba Kajak area of Seeki Meral, Vishrampur near Rajhara coal Mines of Palamu district and Mandariya Block of Garhwa district;

(c) whether the Government propose to open coal mines in above mentioned areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The coalfields of the country, in general encompasses more than one district and the reserve estimation is done coalfield-wise. However, categorised reserves of coal deposits in different coalfields of Bihar embracing different districts are given as under:

| Coalfield | District | Reserve (in million tonnes) | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | Proved | Indicated | Inferred | Total |
| Raniganj | Dhanbad | 1409.23 | 547.77 | 90.10 | 2047.10 |
| Jharia | Dhanbad | 15077.57 | 4352.49 | 0.00 | 19430.06 |
| E.Bokaro | Bokaro, Giridih | 2826.28 | 3179.73 | 0.00 | 6005.01 |
| W. Bokaro | Hazaribagh | 3165.06 | 1556.45 | 34.42 | 4755.93 |
| Ramgarh | Hazaribagh | 367.76 | 545.15 | 58.05 | 970.96 |
| N. Karanpura | Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamu | 6325.28 | 5373.40 | 2330.43 | 14029.11 |
| S. Karanpura | Hazaribagh, Ranchi | 2542.18 | 1963.12 | 1508.67 | 6013.97 |
| Auranga | Palamu | 8.78 | 2484.92 | 503.41 | 2997.11 |
| Hutar | Palamu | 190.79 | 26.55 | 32.48 | 249.82 |
| Daltanganj | Palamu | 83.86 | 60.10 | 0.00 | 143.96 |
| Deogarh | Deogarh | 326.24 | 72.60 | 0.00 | 399.84 |
| Rajmahal | Godda, Sahebganj, Pakur, Dumka | 2077.97 | 8258.55 | 1377.21 | 11713.73 |
| Total | | 34401 | 28420.83 | 5934.77 | 68756.6 |