

### Recruitment of SCs/STs in Coal India Limited

2719. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) had issued advertisement on November 25, 1995 for Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST candidates for the posts of Welfare Officers/Personnel Officers (Trainees) and Junior Executive Trainees (Sales and Marketing) to fill up the backlog vacancies of SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the number of SC/ST candidates recruited for the above mentioned posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As reported by Coal India Ltd. 28 (Twenty Eight) number of SC/ST candidates were recruited as per details below :

Welfare Officers (Trainees)	SC	14
	ST	13
Junior Executive Trainees (Sales and Marketing)	ST	01
Total		28

### Tea Cultivation

2720. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey or soil testing has been organised to discover the areas suitable for tea cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the States where such kind of survey has been undertaken;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in Orissa in this regard;

(d) if so, the scope found there for tea plantation; and

(e) the details of the programme formulated for tea plantation in Orissa during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Tea Board has conducted a technical survey in which following states have been declared as non-traditional areas suitable for cultivation of Tea in the country.

1. Arunachal Pradesh, 2. Manipur, 3. Meghalaya, 4. Mizoram, 5. Nagaland, and 6. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Hill District of Assam, North Cachar Hills of Assam, Southern District of Tripura, Orissa, Sikkim, Kumaon and

Garhwal Regions of Uttar Pradesh, Idukki district of Kerala, Kodagu District of Karnataka and Kodaikanal District of Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Preliminary surveys conducted by Tea Board from time to time are indicative of the fact that certain areas in Keonjhar, Kalahandi, Phulbani and Rayagada Districts of Orissa State are suitable for Tea cultivation subject to availability of artificial irrigation in dry months.

(e) Developmental activities of Tea in the state is now being looked after by the Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa (APICOL). The proposals when received from APICOL will be accommodated under Tea Board's New area Development Scheme for which an outlay of Rs. 2.50 crores has been provided in the 9th Plan proposals of the Board.

### Tea and Coffee Plantation

2721. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land in West Bengal brought under Tea and Coffee plantation so far;

(b) the production of Tea and Coffee in the state during 1997-98 and 1998-1999, till date;

(c) whether the government propose to bring some more land under Tea and Coffee plantation in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The areas of land in West Bengal brought under Tea plantation in Hectares is as follows :

Year	Area
1996	102,650
1997*	103,100
1998*	103,500

\*Estimated

As for Coffee, the same has been planted on an area of 25-30 hectares in West Bengal on an experimental basis.

(b) Production of Tea in Mn. Kgs is as Follows :-

Year	Quantity (Estimated)
1997-98	177.10
1998-99 (April-Dec.)	183.93

The Coffee production is very insignificant in the State amounting to hardly 500-600 kgs. per annum.

(c) to (d) Availability of land is one of the major limiting factors. Every effort has been made to bring additional area under Tea. Several new units have already come up in Chopra and Islampur block of Uttar Dinajpur district and in some pockets in Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and Siliguri area. Beside, steps have been initiated to conduct trials in Ajothya Hills of Purulla district of West Bengal. Tea Board has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs for taking up Tea plantation on trial basis in a plot area of 25 acres in Purulia district.

However, the climatic conditions in the State are not conducive to take up Coffee cultivation on commercial basis.

#### Panel to Study the Steel Funding Proposals

2722. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IDBI has set up a panel to study all the steel funding proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for setting up of such panel; and

(c) the time by which the panel is likely to submit its report?

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) to (c) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it has constituted a sub-committee of Board of Directors to draw up a general approach to be adopted in regard to steel projects referred to it for sanction of additional financial assistance. The Committee would submit its recommendations to the Executive Committee of the IDBI.

#### Setting up of Alumina and Bauxite Mines in Orissa

2723. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a 1 million tpa. alumina industry in the backward district of Kalahandi in the State of Orissa by Sterlite Industries (India) Limited;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has identified the land for establishment of the Plant and whether the Land Acquisition process has been started; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) (a) M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Limited proposes to set up a 1 million tpa. alumina refinery plant at Lanjigarh, District Kalahandi in Orissa.

(b) The State Govt. of Orissa have authorised Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa (IDCO) to acquire land in Kalahandi District, but, the company has not yet filed requisition for acquisition of land.

(c) According to the company, no time frame can be given as yet for commissioning of the project.

#### Excise on Beverages

2724. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the duty is being collected from small retailers selling beverages through dispensers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated excise duty revenue sought to be collected during the current year;

(d) whether the costs and resources are commensurate with the revenue earned;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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) Normally, aerated waters are prepared and sold through vending machines. Aerated waters prepared and sold in this manner are not chargeable to Central Excise Duty. They have been exempted from Central Excise Duty vide Notification No. 37/98-Central Excise dated 10.12.1998.

(b) to (f) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

#### Provision of Silk to Silk Weavers

2725. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the silk saree industry of Varanasi has been using imported silk due to inadequate availability of silk;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide the Open General Licence (O.G.L.) facility to weavers to make them available the silk;

(c) whether the smuggled silk seized by the Department of Customs is proposed to be distributed to the marketing institutions of Uttar Pradesh for their benefit;