

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the office of Raj Mahal Coal Project from Asansol, West Bengal to Sahibganj;

(b) if so, the time by which the office of Raj Mahal Project is likely to be shifted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) There is no office of Rajmahal Project at Asansol.

(b) to (c) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the Question.

[English]

Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission in J&K

3306. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has provided additional funds as promised to meet the additional financial burden due to implementation of Fifth Pay Commission recommendations to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if the funds have not been provided so far the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The State Governments have the discretion in the matter of determining the salary structure of their employees and it is not mandatory for them to adopt the Central pay scales. Government of India could not make any commitment to meet any part of the expenditure incurred on payment of salaries to State Government employees. In the case of J&K, the State's negative resources are fully covered by the Centre with a view to protecting the size of the approved Annual Plan of the State. The negative resources this year have been estimated after taking into account the liability on account of the revision of pay scales on the basis of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

Cheaper Accommodation

3307. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of the Government to provide cheaper accommodation to tourists on the lines of Ashok Yatri Niwas in State Capitals of the country;

(b) the details of the amount earmarked for the development of low budget hotels in the State Capitals; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be implemented completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments for creation of cheaper accommodation for tourists in the shape of Yatri Niwas and Yatrikas etc. The financial assistance is provided for the projects which are identified in consultation with the State Governments. Ministry of Tourism has budgeted Rs. 1400 lakhs for budget accommodation during 1998-99. These projects are implemented by the State Governments.

ITDC

3308. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether room occupancy in various ITDC hotels in the country has come down considerably during the last year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the low occupancy in the Hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cumulative occupancy rate in ITDC hotels declined from 49% in 1996-97 to 42% in 1997-98. The decline in occupancy is attributed *inter-alia* to recessionary trend in Indian economy; lower turnout of international business travellers; currency crises in South East Asian countries making them cheaper destinations and heavy price undercutting by the private sector hotels.

Fraud in Banks

3309. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned Ex.-C.M.D. of a bank among four booked for fraud" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated September, 10, 1998.

(b) if so, the facts of matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have registered a regular case against Shri K.S. Bains, former Chairman & Managing Director, Punjab & Sind Bank, a General Manager and a Branch Manager of the bank and Managing Director of a company regarding involvement of the above officials of the bank in sanctioning of bridge loan to the company and purchase/subsequent sale of its shares in violation of laid down norms in this regard causing wrongful loss to the bank. The bank has placed the concerned General Manager under suspension and disciplinary action has been initiated by the bank against him and two other officers.

Delinking of SIDBI from IDBI

3310. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to delink Small Industries Development Bank of India from Industrial Development Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether delinking would have the several changes in capital structure, Board of Directors etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As announced in the budget speech of June 1998, it is envisaged to bring about comprehensive amendments to Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989 with a view to delink Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) from Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), enlarge the shareholders base of SIDBI and also provide SIDBI with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility.

(c) and (d) The proposal includes change in capital structure so as to reduce IDBI shareholding to less than 49 percent, change in Board of Directors so as to give representation to the new shareholders and other consequential and related changes in the Act.

Revenue Earned from Textiles

3311. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Government from the processing of mixed cotton knitted fabrics and 100% knitted polyester sectors;

(b) whether the Government propose to promote both the above sectors or only one sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The excise revenue from processed knitted or crocheted fabrics for the financial year 1997-98 is Rs. 18.01 crore (provisional). Data regarding revenue from the processing of polyester mixed cotton knitted fabrics and 100% knitted polyester fabrics is not available separately.

(b) and (c) Both the processed polyester mixed cotton knitted fabrics with polyester predominance and 100% polyester knitted fabrics attract the same rate of excise duty. Only processed cotton knitted fabrics (with cotton predominance has been exempted from excise levy in view of its export potential.

Coal Stock in NEC

3312. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal stock in North Eastern Coalfields has been piling up due to over-emphasis or open-cast mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for failure to liquidate old stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The company (North Eastern Coalfields) is faced with the problem of liquidation of stock because, except local market, there is no major buyers from the major sectors like power, Steel and Cement.

Assistance by FIs

3313. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: