

Import of Yarn Fabric

3317. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of yarn fabric and made-ups into the country has increased by 32% during April-July this year;

(b) if so, the names of countries from which imports are made; and

(c) the export performance of above items during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) According to the provisional figures of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the import of textile yarn, fabrics and made-ups during the period April-July, 1998 recorded an increase of 32% in rupee terms and 14.8% in dollar terms, over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, Peoples Republic of China, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Nepal, Thailand and USA are the major countries from which these textiles items are being imported by India.

(c) As per DGCI&S's figures the export of textile yarn, fabrics and made-ups amounted to Rs. 5620.31 crores (provisional) during the period April-July, 1998.

Export of Gold Jewellery

3318. SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTHA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for export of gold Jewellery during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of gold jewellery for which export licences have been issued during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A target of export of gold jewellery of value US\$ 850 million was fixed for the year 1997-98.

(c) Under the Export-Import Policy for the period 1997 to 2002 no export licence is required for export of gold jewellery.

Production Capacity of Cigarette Industry

3319. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made in order to determine the effects of increasing production capacity of Indian cigarette companies on the Bidi industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Labour, has assigned a study to a society called All India Society for Social Upliftment on the subject titled "Decline in the level of employment in the Bidi Sector—potential impact of mini-cigarettes". The Society has submitted its report to that Ministry.

Foreign Investment

3320. SHRI KAMALNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent concluded '1998 India Economic Summit' organised by the World Economic Forum has stressed upon implementation of the existing policies to attract foreign investors;

(b) the other important suggestions made during the Summit; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) In the recently concluded '1998 India Economic Summit' organised by the World Economic Forum, the importance of the implementation of the existing policies to attract foreign investors has been recognized. The other important suggested policy areas included insurance, capital markets, information technology, housing and infrastructure, trade liberalization and creation of popular support for economic reforms. The Government continuously reviews the existing policies for economic development and recognizes the increasing role of foreign investment in infrastructure especially in power, ports,

airports, roads, telecom, information technology, and in the service and insurance sectors.

Payment of Service Charges by HPC

3321. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Paper Corporation has paid service charges to its dealers for the sales made with the States as well as with Central Government Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Hindustan Paper Corporation in Delhi has earmarked specific product segment to its stockists and dealers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) has neither engaged any private agent or dealer for servicing any State/Central Government Department orders nor made any payment towards service charges for the last three years.

(c) and (d) In the year 1994, HPC earmarked product segments for its Delhi Stockists/Dealers based on basic criteria such as Publishing, Exercise Books, Computer Stationery and Share Forms. However, in the present market condition of surplus availability of paper, the stockists/dealers lift paper pertaining to product segments depending on their market potentiality and need.

[*Translation*]

Light and Sound Programme of Bodh Gaya

3322. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to start sound and light programme in Bodh Gaya of Bihar is pending for the consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Prices of Coal

3323. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of different varieties of coal have been increased after the nationalisation of coal industry;

(b) if so, the number of times the prices of coal have been increased upto March, 1998 and to what extent;

(c) the prices of different varieties of coal at the time of nationalisation of coal industry;

(d) whether coal industry suffered financial loss after its nationalisation;

(e) if so, the extent of financial loss suffered as a result thereof;

(f) whether the Government have decided to close down some coal mines; and

(g) if so, the details of such mines?

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

(b) and (c) In the past 25 years the prices have been revised 18 times. The average price of coal produced at the time of nationalisation was Rs. 37.50 per tonne. The average prices of coal produced by Coal India Limited (CIL) as revised last on 23.8.98 is Rs. 559.00 per tonne. That is an average of about Rs. 21.00 per annum per tonne of coal.

(d) and (e) The CIL and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in the nationalised coal sector have been incurring losses or earning profit on the basis of their operations in a financial year. The accumulated losses of CIL and SCCL as on 31.3.98 are Rs. 499.63 crores and Rs. 1115.06 crores respectively.