

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
APEB	-	-	-	-	4.44	(-)0.12	(-)0.08	-	4.24
ASEB	0.86	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.58	1.44
KPCL	-	-	-	-	(-)0.04	-	70.75	-	70.71
DPL	42.51	-	2.71	-	-	-	-	-	45.22
DVC	58.35	44.25	34.49	-	-	-	-	-	137.09
DESU	-	33.18	11.28	2.29	-	-	-	-	46.75
BTSP	22.71	253.22	214.89	-	-	-	-	-	490.82
NTPC	20.97	39.75	2.56	98.50	(-)2.60	29.19	3.60	-	191.97
CESE	10.62	-	2.24	-	-	-	-	-	12.86
AEC	-	-	-	-	-	21.65	0.12	-	21.77
BSES	-	-	-	-	(-)0.48	0.52	-	-	0.04
Grand Total	475.83	855.37	535.61	398.90	250.12	798.82	614.35	0.58	3929.58

(-) Figures indicate adjustments to be made in respect of these EBs/power companies.

Boosting of Export

*52. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a policy to boost the economy, particularly sagging exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether infrastructure financing, a critical output for boosting investment and reviving the exports has not been given due attention in the policy announced recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Policy review is a continuous process and the Government have initiated a number of policy initiatives to boost the export sector which is important sector of the economy. The external trade sector of India has been further liberalised after the changes introduced recently in the new Exim Policy. The existing export incentive schemes have been strengthened; procedures have been further simplified and automatically introduced; sector-specific issues are being addressed to deal with sectoral inadequacies to achieve a higher growth especially in agro & allied products, jewellery, garments and electronic sectors. The threshold limit under the Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme has been reduced to Rs. 1 crore at the request of the small scale sector for certain sectors and to Rs. 10 lakhs for software sector. Interest rate on export credit has been reduced to improve competitiveness.

(c) and (d) Recognising that infrastructure at important locations is crucial and requires urgent attention, the

Ministry of Commerce is implementing schemes such as the Export Promotion Industrial Park and Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme for providing critical infrastructure at designated pressure points. Govt. of India have been continuously addressing various issues concerning infrastructural development including finance issues.

Decline in Industrial Growth

*53. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of industrial growth and production has declined during January to April, 1998 as compared to the corresponding period during previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for decline and major sectors affected; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the growth rate and productions?

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

The overall industrial growth rate in the months of January, February and March 1998 was 3.1%, 3.4% and 2.1% respectively as compared to 4.5%, 2.8% and -0.7% respectively for these months in the previous year. The rates of growth in February and March though low, were higher than last year. The growth rate for April, 98 is likely to be compiled by June, 1998.

The deceleration in industrial growth is perceived to be the cumulative effect of many macro factors, which

include, subdued export growth, slow down in investment and sluggishness in demand. The sectors which were adversely affected are commercial vehicles, capital goods, sugar, steel, auto ancillary, newsprint, sewing machines, electrical fans and leather and fur products.

(c) The mid-year reviews were conducted to identify areas of concern. As a consequence, certain initiatives have been taken. Bank rate has been brought down by 1 per cent and action has been initiated to increase investment in infrastructure sectors particularly, power, mining etc. This is expected to provide increased demand for the industrial sector. Dialogue will be continued with Industry Associations to identify measures to stimulate growth.

[Translation]

Royalty rates of Coal

*54. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the established conventions to stipulate the rates of coal royalty;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations regarding discrimination in distribution of coal royalty;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the study group constituted to review the royalty rates of coal had submitted its report to the Government in September, 1997;

(e) if so, the details of recommendations of the study group;

(f) whether according to recommendations of the study group the new rates were to be notified by October, 1997;

(g) if so, the reasons for delay in notifying the recommended rates within the stipulated time; and

(h) the time by which new rates are likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Since 1968 the royalty rates on coal have been stipulated on tonnage basis.

(b) and (c) In addition to royalty on coal, several State Governments had in the past imposed cesses on coal. The Acts imposing such cesses had been struck down by the Supreme Court and the High Courts except in the case of West Bengal the Cess Acts of the State are pending the decision of the Supreme Court. As the cesses in West Bengal are levied at a rate much higher than the royalty on

coal, the rates of coal royalty introduced in August, 1991 are continuing in the State of West Bengal. A representation from the Government of West Bengal requesting for the extension of coal royalty at the current rates has been received.

(d) to (f) The Ministry of Coal had constituted a Study Group on 28.1.97 to interact with the coal producing States and the consuming bodies and to submit a report on the matter for assisting the Government in considering a revision in the rates of royalty. It is beyond the purview of the Group to suggest any specific date for the introduction of new royalty rates. The recommendations of the Group are under consideration of the Government.

(g) and (h) The Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 does not contemplate the automatic revision of royalties on minerals after any specified period. However, it provides that no upward revision of rate of royalty with respect to any mineral can be done more than once during any period of three years. In fact in the decade 1981-91 the Central Government did not revise the royalty rates on coal at all.

[English]

Disbanding of FIPB

*55. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering disbanding of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and preferring case-by-case approach in giving approval to foreign direct investment proposals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure greater inflow of foreign direct investment in Industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Detailed guidelines for the consideration of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals by the FIPB are already in place. The guidelines endeavour to provide a time-bound, transparent, non-discriminatory and non-discretionary FDI regime to attract greater inflows of foreign capital.

The policy towards FDI is a dynamic one, which is aimed at progressively liberalising the FDI regime with a view to encouraging foreign investments.

Amount Collected through VDIS

*56. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected through the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) during 1997-98;