

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) A news item under the caption "Sarkar Par Janata Ko Gumrah Karne Ka Aarop" appeared in the Navbharat Times dated 25th June, 1997.

The pre-budget Economic Survey 1996-97 presented to the Parliament in February 97 is the most comprehensive and authentic document on the country's economy. The Survey is based on the analysis of verified data and information received from different Ministries/departments and various other sources.

[English]

Coir Geo-Textiles

2661. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded permission to Coir Board to participate in the international fairs/seminars etc. to promote Geo-textile in coir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to the Union Government regarding promotion of Geo-textile in coir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) For the promotion of export of Coir and coir products including coir geo-textiles, the Government accorded permission to the Coir Board to participate in the following international fairs/conferences/seminars etc. during the last two years:

- India America Expo, USA 14-16 June, 1995.
- Domotex World Trade Fair, Germany, 7-10 January, 1996.
- Annual Conference of the International Erosion Control Association, USA, 27th February-1st March, 1996.
- SAITEX World Trade Fair, South Africa, 22-26 October, 1996.
- EXPO India 96, Dubai 7-11 December, 1996.
- Domotex World Trade Fair, Germany, 11-14 January, 1997
- Annual Conference of the International Erosion Control Association, USA-22-28 February, 1997.

(c) to (e) Having regard to the fact that Kerala is the largest producer of coir and coir products, the Government of Kerala has been in touch with the Union Government for finding ways and means for the promotion of coir and coir products including coir geo-textile. The Government is

aware that coir geo-textiles have potential for export. Therefore, in consultation with the Coir Board, the Government is working on a long term export strategy, encompassing, inter-alia, in-depth study of various aspects such as the demand in the market including the market abroad, environmental angle, quality, standardisation, usage, variety, price-competitiveness etc. which have a bearing on the marketability of coir geo-textile.

Accidents in Coal Mines

2662. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents took place in the coal mines during each of the last three years and the current year, as on date, colliery-wise;

(b) the reasons for such accidents;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured and became handicapped thereby;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the affected persons/families; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The number of fatal/serious accidents alongwith the reasons for such accidents that took place in the coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last three years and the current year as on date is given in attached statement I and II respectively. Information on mine-wise figures of accidents in SCCL is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d) Compensation is paid to the dependents of the deceased and persons suffering permanent physical disabilities as a result of accidents as per the provisions of Workmen's Compensation Act. The total amount of compensation paid by CIL and SCCL in each of the three years and in the current year as on date is given below:

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	CIL	SCCL
1994	147.93	294.72
1995	138.92	290.58
1996	128.12	368.94
1997	73.81	136.88
	(upto 4.8.97)	(upto March' 97)

(e) Preventive steps as laid down in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety, Expert Committee recommendations as also the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety