

Joint-Ventures between India and UK

85. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some Indo-UK joint-ventures have been signed during this year;
- (b) if so, the details of those joint-ventures; and
- (c) the terms and conditions of these joint-ventures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Some joint ventures and agreements between private companies from UK and India were signed during the visit to India of the British Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade, UK in January 1997. The joint ventures and agreements between Indian and UK firms included the sectors of insurance, telecommunications, software, engineering goods, marketing of real estate development etc. Terms and conditions for setting up of joint ventures are as per policy guidelines.

Coal Mining Blocks

86. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have identified mining blocks for allowing private coal mining;
- (b) if so, the number of such mining blocks;
- (c) the number of blocks allocated to private parties for mining so far;
- (d) the number of proposals for allocation of coal mining block received from the private parties are pending as on date; and
- (e) the efforts made to ensure that all identified blocks are allocated to the interested private parties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, so far 69 number of mining blocks have been identified for captive mining.

(c) 28 blocks have been allocated to private parties for mining so far.

(d) and (e) The number of proposals for allocation of coal mining blocks received from the private parties pending with Government is 29. Meetings of Screening Committee are held periodically and all the applications received are considered carefully in consultation with other Ministries to ensure that interested and eligible private parties get the identified blocks.

Captive Coal Mines

87. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of captive coal mines in the country and the number of coal mines underground and opencast out of it, separately;

(b) the production capacity of these mines, mine-wise; and

(c) the industries/companies to whom these coal mines have been allotted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Out of 28 mining blocks offered for captive mining, mining plan for 4 parties have been approved by the Standing Committee under MMRD Act 1957. The details of industries, type of mining and projected production capacities in respect of above mentioned 4 cases are given below :

Name of Industries	Name of the blocks	Annual Projected Production Capacity & Type (Provisional)
1. M/s. Bengal Emta a joint venture company with M/s. WBSEB and WBPD Corpn. Ltd	1. Tara (East & West)	3 mt OC & UG
2. M/s. RPG Industries/ CESC	2. Sarisatolli	3.5 mt OC
3. M/s. Nippon Denro	3. Baranj	4.0 mt. OC
4. M/s. Associated Cement	4. Lohara (East)	0.80 mt UG

mt = million tonnes

OC = Open Cast

UG- Underground

India's Share in World Trade

88. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation has published statistics of world trade recently;

(b) if so, the ranking of India as exporters, as importer and as trader of goods and its share in comparison of the world trade during each of the last two years;

(c) the corresponding figures in respect of trade in services;

(d) the percentage change as compared to the previous year in India's performance in terms of value in view of parts (b) and (c) above; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken to improve its position during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c)

As per information contained in the publication of WTO the country's position is given below :

EXPORTS

(i) *Merchandise Trade*

	1995	1994
Rank	31	32
Share %	0.61	0.60
<i>Services</i>		
Rank	N.A.	31
Share %	N.A.	0.63

IMPORTS

(ii) *Merchandise Trade*

Rank	28	29
Share %	0.67	0.62
<i>Services</i>		
Rank	N.A.	31
Share %	N.A.	0.73

(d) India's exports (merchandised trade) during 1995 are placed at US \$ 30.5 billion representing 21.5% growth over the level of US \$ 25.1 bn. during 1994. India's imports (merchandise trade) during 1995 are placed at US \$ 34.4 bn representing a growth of 28.4% over the imports of US \$ 26.8 bn in 1994.

(e) Export performance is influenced *inter alia* by international market conditions, infrastructure and trade policy framework etc. The Exim Policy for 1997-2002 would provide for increased export friendly environment during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

National Development Council

89. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments in the 47th meeting of the National Development Council had demanded a larger share of funds than what was recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reactions of the Union Government/Reserve Bank of India in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) In the 47th meeting of the National Development Council Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan have conveyed that the Tenth Finance Commission's award reduced the share of their State in the total transfer recommended. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu wanted Tenth Finance Commission's Alternative Scheme of Devolution to be implemented. Kerala wanted a share of Corporation Tax revenue. Similarly Himachal Pradesh also wanted corporation tax to be merged into the shareable pool of taxes. Tripura wanted additional central assistance to be provided for assisting rural and urban local bodies.

(c) The total devolution of States as per the Award of the Tenth Finance Commission for the period 1995-2000 has already been accepted by the Government and is being implemented. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to give additional non-plan grants to the States in addition to what has already been recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission or to vary the *inter-se* shares among States.

NRI Investment

90. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "NRI investment – a new hawala channel" appearing in the *Hindustan Times*, dated January 31, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to screen investments made by NRIs in Indian companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During January, 1997, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched premises connected with M/s Kay Quinone Organics India Ltd., at Bombay & Hyderabad. Incriminating documents were seized as a result of the searches. Investigations, so far have revealed that during the year 1995, the said company arranged inward remittance of US \$ 3.25 lakhs from Dubai in the guise of equity participation from its foreign principals after making payments to the tune of Rs. 1.25 crores through Hawala channels.

(c) and (d) Proposals for investment by NRIs are scrutinised and cleared by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under automatic approval mechanism or by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, depending on the areas/sectors in which investments are proposed to be made. The actual inflows are permitted after approval by RBI under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

Deficit Financing

91. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Minister in his budget had stated that Government will curtail the deficit financing;

(b) if so, whether the proposed estimate of reducing the deficit financing has not been achieved during the whole year;

(c) if so, the main reasons for failure in tackling the deficit financing;