

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
10.	Subsiline Exports
11.	Utkal Exports
12.	Surya Marines Pvt. Ltd.
13.	S. Chanchla Combines
14.	Falcon Marine Exports Ltd.
15.	Kay pee Exports P Ltd.
16.	Capital Freezing Complex
17.	Falcon Marine Exports Ltd.
18.	Bijaya Marine Products Pla
19.	S Chanchala Combines
20.	Sealand Fisheries P Ltd.
21.	Subshins Packaging Industries

STATE OF KARNATAKA

1. Binaga Ice And Cold Storage
2. Karnataka Food Packers
3. Sterling Foods
4. Mudreswar Foods & Exports
5. Baby Marine Products
6. Baraka Overseas Traders
7. Apollo Fisheries Pvt. Ltd.
8. Lewis Natural Foods Ltd.
9. Venus Fisheries Pvt. Ltd.
10. K F D C Ltd.
11. D F D C Ltd.
12. Accelerated Frze Fryg Co. Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
13.	Siddhi Freezers And Export
14.	Udayari Marine Products Ltd.

STATE OF GOA

1. Rahul Foods (Goa)
2. Pioneer Export Co.
3. Cham Ocean Treasures C Ltd.
4. Corlim Marine Exports P Ltd.
5. Directorate of Fisheries
6. Rahul Exports Pvt.

Bhutani Currency in North Bengal

524. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received any complaint regarding foreign exchange racket in Bhutanees currency in Siliguri, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and entire North Bengal;

(b) if so, the Government's reactions to the contents of the said complaints; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to control this parallel currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A few letters have been received by the Reserve Bank of India stating that due to shortage of small denomination notes and coins, Bhutanese currency is being accepted by the traders in Siliguri, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling area.

(b) Circulation of currency of a foreign country inside Indian territory is not permitted under the law.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has been increasing the supply of coins and rupees 10/- notes to currency chest branches of public sector banks in the said districts as also in North Bengal. Necessary instructions have also been issued by Reserve Bank of India to its Calcutta office and the banks in the region to step up the circulation of rupees 10/- notes as well as small coins in order to prevent the circulation of Bhutanese currency. The District Collector of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar have

also been requested to take suitable measures to combat the circulation of Bhutanese currency.

Patent Amendment Bill

525. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
LT. GEN. (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fate of the controversial Patent Law (Amendment) Bill 1995 is still hanging in the balance;

(b) whether the patents are vital aspects of the global pharma industry and the patent protection is essential to spur basic research and development and make it commercially viable; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not introducing Patent (Amendment) Bill in the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) With the dissolution of the Tenth Lok Sabha, the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1995 has lapsed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is in the process of holding wide consultations on the subject to arrive at a consensus in this regard.

Minar Project in Delhi

526. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SCOPE raised funds from Public Sector Undertakings to fund the 'Minar Project' at Laxmi Nagar district complex in East Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the amount spent on the Project and progress made so far in its construction;

(e) the reasons for overrun in the cost and time;

(f) whether responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(h) by when the 'MINAR PROJECT' is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) : The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has collected Rs. 168.99 crores till date from 41 constituents to whom space has been allotted

in the 'Minar Project' at Laxmi Nagar District Complex in East Delhi.

(c) The project cost which was estimated at Rs. 74.38 crores in 1986 was revised from time to time and in February, 1996 it was estimated at Rs. 183.25 crores.

(d) An amount of Rs. 151.72 crores has been spent so far on this project. The civil and structural work of the project is almost completed except some finishing works which are dependent on the completion of works of service contractors and the physical progress of the work of these contractors is approximately 60%.

(e) The cost and time overruns in the project were due to various reasons such as delay in mobilisation of funds from constituents; delay in handing over full site, clearance of barracks and approval of building plans by the Delhi Development Authority; initially non-availability of space for dumping excavated earth; non-availability of steel reinforcement; delay in availability of construction power from Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (Now Delhi Vidyut Board); closure of Badarpur mines; various agitations, strikes, etc.; slowdown of work by contractors and invoking arbitration; abandonment of work by Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning - HVAC contractor due to order of closure by the Hon'ble High Court; raising unacceptable claims by services contractors; non-availability of working fronts to various agencies; etc.

(f) No responsibility has been fixed.

(g) The question relates to a project being executed by an organisation, namely SCOPE, registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 and, therefore, is not directly the concern of the Government.

(h) The project is likely to be completed by April, 1998 and commissioned by October, 1998.

Trips Expert Group in a Mess

527. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item "Trips Expert Group in a mess as key members opt out" as appeared in the Financial Express dated October 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the news item; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is being considered by the Government.