

[English]

Dues of CIL

5473. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount which the power and steel companies owe to the Coal India Ltd., separately under the disputed and undisputed heads at present as on date;

(b) whether the Central Government has decided to clear off the undisputed portion of State-owned power companies due till December, 1996 to the public sector coal major, Coal India Ltd;

(c) if so, the rationale behind this decision; and

(d) the undisputed amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The outstanding dues to Coal India Limited from Power and Steel sectors as on 31.3.1997 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

(Data provisional)

	Disputed	Undisputed	Total
Power	1653.55	1222.13	2875.68
Steel	454.87	44.09	498.96

(b) Government approved the proposal regarding deduction of outstanding dues of public sector undertakings as on 31.12.96 under the Ministry of Power/Railways/Coal/Atomic Energy through Central Appropriation with the stipulation that such appropriation be restricted annually to a maximum of 15% of the Central Plan Assistance for the concerned State irrespective of the number of years that it may take for the outstanding dues to be cleared.

(c) Governments intervention was necessary as the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards had mounted and they had not made arrangements to clear even the undisputed dues.

(d) The undisputed dues from SEBs/Power Utilities as on 31.12.96 was Rs. 1248.07 crores (provisional).

Assistance to Kalinganagar Steel Plant

5474. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any project through Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. a joint-sector company of MMTC for seeking financial assistance from Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) for the steel plant at Kalinganagar (Dubri);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the project; and

(d) the time by which the above project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up an integrated Steel Plant in Orissa for production of 1.1 million tonnes steel wire rods, steel billets and pig iron with the participation of MMTC, Govt. of Orissa, MECON, Commonwealth Development Corpn. of UK and Lucky Goldstar of Korea is under consideration.

(c) Land for the Project has been acquired. Blast furnace has been imported and transported to the site and Financial institutions have appraised the Project. All statutory clearances have been obtained.

(d) At present, the Government have permitted MMTC to invest Rs. 100 crores in Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. and Rs. 49 crores in KMCL.

Export Growth

5475. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of various products during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the achievement made in this regard upto March 31, 1997;

(c) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to boost the export of various products by the Government during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) For the year 1996-97 an export target of around US \$ 38 billion was envisaged based on 18-20% dollar growth. As per available provisional data from DGCI & S, exports during 1996-97 are placed at US \$ 33.1 billion. No targets have yet been fixed for 1997-98.

(c) India's exports during April-March 1996-97 as per provisional DGCI & S data are placed at Rs. 117525 crores. These export earnings valued in dollar terms amount to US \$ 33106 million.

(d) Steps to boost exports of various products are continuously being taken. These include inter alia, changes in policies and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and industry etc.

Amendment to Essential Commodities Act (Cotton)

5476. SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

SHRI JAISINH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: