

mines during Eighth Plan:

- (c) whether the production target has been achieved;
- (d) if not, the real position; and
- (e) the steps are being taken to increase the off take of coal from different coal mines under CIL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The number of working coal mines under Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 1.1.1997 is 502.

(b) to (d) The yearwise targets and actual production of coal so far during the VIII Plan period are given below :

(In million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual production
1992-93	210.00	211.22
1993-94	216.00	216.10
1994-95	223.00	223.07
1995-96	241.00	237.28
1996-97	252.00	222.43*

*(Provisional production figure upto February, 1997)

(e) The following steps are being taken by CIL to increase the off-take of coal from different coal mines of the company

- (i) maintaining continuous coordination with the railways in order to maximise supply of railway wagons and wagon loading of coal;
- (ii) increasing the number of coal handling plants and upgrading their efficiency to improve the rapid loading system.
- (iii) increasing the number of pay loaders and improving their efficiency.
- (iv) maintaining close liaison with the linked consumers for maximising off-take of coal

Indirect Tax Collection

4438 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether indirect tax collection fell short of the targets set therefor during 1996;

(b) if so, the budget estimate for target set and to what extent it has fallen short;

(c) the main reasons for short fall and the steps the Government propose to take to improve the tax collections; and

(d) to what extent programme are being made to improve the exports during the remaining period of the current year and also during 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Revised Budget Estimates of customs and Union excise duties (exclusive of cesses not administered by the Department of Revenue) and service taxes for the financial year, 1996-97 are given below :

	(Rs. in crore)
Customs	44135
Union excise	45917
Service taxes	970

These estimates have been prepared for the entire financial year. All possible efforts are being made to maximise the revenue collection. The extent of shortfall, if any, in the current financial year can be quantified only after 31.3.1997.

(d) There are a number of schemes for promotion of exports such as EPCG scheme, Duty Exemption scheme, scheme for EOU/EPZ etc. under the Exim Policy, 1992-97. Steps being taken to improve the export performance in 1997-98 would be indicated in the new Exim policy.

VABAL

4439 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to abolish Value Based Advance Licence Scheme (VABAL);

(b) if so, the purpose of abolishing VABAL; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (c) All major export promotion schemes including Value Based Advance Licence Scheme (VABAL) are under review of the Government in the forthcoming EXIM Policy for 1997-2002 to be announced shortly, coterminous with 9th Five Year Plan.