

(a) whether the Federation of Gujarat Cotton Association has requested the Government to remove certain provisions under the Essential Commodities Act, 1981 which attract criminal processings against the traders held at a Convention in November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provision of the Act are being misused by the authorities indiscriminately in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details of the provisions under the Act which are creating hurdles in the trading of cotton in the State; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove those hurdles so that the trading community may get relief?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government have received a representation from Shree Saurashtra-Kutch Ginning & Pressing Factories and Cotton Merchant Association requesting that cotton be removed from the list of items under the Essential Commodities Act.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Joint venture with NBCC

5477. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank Commercial Corporation (NBCC) has formed joint venture with three Indian partners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects likely to be undertaken under the said joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Nationsbanc Commercial corporation, Atlanta, USA has been granted approval in August, 1996 to set up a joint venture company viz. Foremost Factors Ltd. to provide domestic and export factoring services. M/s Mohan Exports (India) Ltd. and M/s 20th Century Finance Corporation Ltd., Bombay are the Indian promoters for this joint venture.

Foreign investment

5478. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Investment Promotion Council has written to more than 150 foreign companies whose proposals have been cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board to invest in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of companies responded to it;

(c) whether these companies have not shown keen interest to implement their proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) addressed letters to various companies, whose proposals were approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, to assess the status of their projects and to obtain information about the bottlenecks, if any, faced by them in implementing the projects.

(b) to (d) A few companies have responded to the letter indicating the existing position regarding implementation of the project. While showing their interest to implement the projects, they have referred to some problems faced by them in implementing the same.

World Bank Assistance to CIL

5479. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has sought assistance from World Bank and other foreign financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the amount sought alongwith the names of the projects for which amount has been sought;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of ongoing World Bank aided schemes in Coal sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to complete these projects within the period and also ensure the proper utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Coal India has sought assistance from World Bank and from no other financial institution.

(b) The details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount in
1.	Environmental and Social Mitigation Project	US \$ 63 million
2.	Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project	US \$ 12 million
3.	**Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project	US # 1070 million

** This projects is yet to be approved by World Bank.

(c) and (d) The World Bank assisted projects are reviewed by Ministry of Coal from time to time with World Bank officials. Last review was held in April, 1997.