

(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.

(e) For implementing these projects, the organisation is being strengthened. Moreover, consultants for implementing project, supervising and monitoring of project have also been appointed. The documents for tendering on different jobs have already been finalised. These steps will ensure proper utilisation of the funds and completion of the project within the stipulated time.

[Translation]

Committee on NTC Mills

5480. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Textile Secretary was set up by the Government during the last year for giving recommendations regarding textile mills functioning under National Textile Corporation;

(b) whether the Government have received the report of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Committee has deliberated on the report of NTC(HC) and submitted their recommendations to the Government. The Committee has taken into consideration the concessions approved by the Government in 1995 and the positive networth factor as per the BIFR norm and categorised the mills according to their viability. The report of the Committee is presently under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Khadi Rebate Arrears

5481. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of rebate arrears due to Khadi industries during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to release these arrears to Khadi industries;

(c) whether this rebate arrears leads to erosion of working capital of these industries; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps being taken to protect the Khadi industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The total rebate arrears amounting to Rs. 187.08 crores are due to Khadi industries. The State-wise rebate arrears position as on 31.3.1997 is given in the statement attached.

(b) to (d) Government is aware of the problems faced by Khadi institutions on account of rebate arrears. In addition to the budgeted grant for the year 1996-97, an additional grant of Rs. 50 crores in supplementary grants was also provided to KVIC in March, 1997 for settling the rebate arrears. Other necessary steps like Government guaranteed credit from the consortium of bank for Khadi institutions have also been taken to step up production of Khadi in accordance with the recommendations of the High Power Committee.

Statement

		Rupees in Crores
Sr. No.	State	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.98
2.	Assam	1.03
3.	Bihar	9.54
4.	Delhi	4.62
5.	Gujarat	21.11
6.	Haryana	6.72
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2.22
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.35
9.	Karnataka	8.48
10.	Kerala	4.85
11.	Maharashtra	6.34
12.	M.P.	3.53
13.	Nagaland	0.24
14.	Orissa	0.78
15.	Punjab	9.36
16.	Rajasthan	12.86
17.	Tamil Nadu	22.99
18.	Uttar Pradesh	63.93
19.	West Bengal	2.15
Total		187.08