

The product profile of fairs were water treatment plants, irrigation system, household consumer products, decorative handicrafts, home textiles, security equipment and devices, shoes and accessories, engineering products, electricals & electronics, agricultural and food products, textile fabrics, ready-made garments, toys etc.

(b) The business which is transacted in the fairs organised by ITPO is both for domestic and export purposes. Based on the information received from the participants, the details of the business generated during the last three years and upto November 1996 are given below :

1993-94	-	Rs. 372.27 crores
1994-95	-	Rs. 886.44 crores
1995-96	-	Rs. 1190.24 crores
1996-97	-	Rs. 592.75 crores

(upto Nov. '96)

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government will promote more and more fairs. ITPO will organise 10 and 11 fairs in 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively in Pragati Maidan. It is expected that Rs. 19.63 crores and Rs. 19.42 crores approximately will be earned during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively. The majority of participation in all these fairs will be by the entrepreneurs in small scale sector.

Mining Guidelines

4393. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate new mining guidelines on the lines of mining guidelines of China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information received from Ministry of Mines, Government of India, there is no proposal to formulate new mining guidelines on the lines of the mining guidelines of China. The Ministry of Coal, Government of India, do not also propose to formulate any new coal mining guidelines on the lines of mining guidelines of China.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer given to Part (a) of the question.

Projects behind Schedule

4394. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of coal projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the number of such projects and the reasons for not completing them on schedule;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete them on time; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). As on 30.9.1996, out of 65 coal projects each costing Rs. 20 crores and above under implementation in Coal India Limited (CIL) & Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), 13 are behind schedule in implementation. Reasons of delay inter alia include constraints in land acquisition and related rehabilitation problems, delay in equipment supply and turn-key execution, adverse geo-mining conditions and fund constraints.

(c) The Ministry of Coal is monitoring the implementation of these delayed projects. The Ministry and coal companies follow-up with the concerned State Governments in expediting pending land cases and also with equipment manufacturers in ensuring early supply/commissioning of equipment, for providing adequate funds for the on-going projects, coal companies have taken steps to mobilise resources through internal generation, Suppliers' Credit and external borrowings.

(d) With the steps taken as indicated in part (c) of the answer above, the number of delayed projects in the coal sector is showing a declining trend. The percentage of delayed projects as on 30.9.1995 was 28.7%, this has come down to 20% as on 30.9.1996.

Frauds by Finance Companies

4395. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered chit and finance companies in Tamil Nadu under bank guarantees as on date;

(b) the number of financial companies that are declared insolvent or wound up during the last three years;

(c) the number of frauds of various finance companies detected during the last three years; and

(d) the action being contemplated to prevent such malpractices by finance companies in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As on 31st July, 1996, there were 118 Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in Tamil Nadu, which had been registered with RBI. Chit Companies, which are categorised as Miscellaneous Non-Banking Finance Companies, are not registered with RBI. Finance Companies/Chit Companies are not covered under any bank guarantee.

(b) RBI's data reporting system does not generate this information. However, as per information available

with RBI, a provisional liquidator had been appointed by the Madras High Court for the Madras Motor Finance & Guarantee Company Ltd. on an application made by the Bank of India Finance Ltd.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has not prescribed any reporting system for frauds by finance companies.

(d) Any irregularities noticed during inspections are followed up and action is taken as per law.

Complaints of Custom Officials

4396 SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some complaints regarding harassment of foreign diplomats by the customs officials at Indira Gandhi International Airport have been received by the Government;

(b) if so the details thereof during the last two years and the current year, so far; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. This Ministry had received a letter from the Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs in November, 1995 to the effect that some foreign missions had reported non-cooperative behaviour by customs officials posted at Indira Gandhi International Airport. The main complaint was that the diplomats who were holding photo identity cards issued by the Airport Security were not allowed to enter the customs area meant for arrival of passengers.

The Central Board of Excise and Customs got the matter verified and restored the said facilities. There has been no further incidence of this nature.

World Trade Organisation meet in Singapore

4397 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India was isolated at the World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meeting in Singapore on the issue of giving equal treatment to the multinational companies;

(b) if so, the stand taken by India at the meeting; and

(c) the consensus that emerged from the deliberations of the WTO meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). There was no specific proposal under consideration at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Singapore for giving equal treatment to the multinational companies.

However, during the Singapore Ministerial Conference and in the preparatory process leading to

the Conference, some developed countries had proposed the inclusion of discussion on a multilateral agreement on investment in the WTO. India had strongly opposed this proposal maintaining that a separate discussion on this issue was not necessary as Article 9 of the Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) provides for a review of the operation of this Agreement not later than the year 1999, in the course of which review it shall be considered whether the Agreement should be complemented with provisions on investment policy and competition policy. India's concern in this area was fully taken on board, and it was agreed that two Working Groups will be established, one to examine the relationship between trade and investment, and the other between trade and competition policy including anti-competitive practices, having regard to the existing WTO provisions, including under the TRIMs Agreements.

[Translation]

Unsettled Claims Pending in PSUs

4398 SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of unsettled claims in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry have increased steeply during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of such pending claims for over 1 year to 2 years, 2 to 3 years, 3 to 5 years and 5 years and above and the total amount involved in unsettled claims and the number of cases referred for Arbitration, undertaking-wise;

(c) the details of cases settled, years-wise and undertaking-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Horticulture Items

4399 SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the India's share in the world trade of horticulture products;

(b) the total quantity of horticulture products exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the private sector has desired to invest in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;