

in March, 1998, 3004 have already been reinstated. Of the remaining 121 dismissed employees, 12 have expired and 109 have not come forward for reinstatement.

NHB's Assistance for Construction of Houses

5943. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank, Bombay has extended refinance facilities to the state Agricultural Rural Development Banks of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi for the construction and repair of houses in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). National Housing Bank (NHB) which has its headquarters at New Delhi, has formulated a Scheme for subscription to Special Rural Housing Debentures (SRHDs) in terms of which NHB subscribers fully to floated by agricultural Rural Development Banks, covering there in the entire lending for rural housing under the scheme against guarantee of the concerned State Government. NHB has reported that the Agricultural Rural Development Banks of Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have not applied for financial assistance from NHB under the scheme for subscription to SEHDs so far.

[English]

Jute Mills

5944. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have re-

ceived any proposal to set up some jute mills in the country particularly in district Saharsa in Bihar, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b): In accordance with the new Industrial Policy no license is required for setting up jute mills in any part of the country including Saharsa in Bihar.

[Translation]

Export of Manganese Ore

5945. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of managanese ore during the last three years; and

(b) the facilities proposed to be given by the Government to the exporters for promoting the exports of managanese ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of managanese ore during the last three years was as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value (in Rs., Crores)</i>
1988-89	13.51
1989-90	38.03
1990-91	41.54

(b) The export of managanese ore is being effected by MMTC, the canalising

agency, within the quantitative/qualitative annual ceilings released by the Government after taking into account the domestic requirements and the conservation angle. The benefit under LERMS is also available to export of manganese ore.

[English]

Utilisation of Defence Land

5946. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have recently made any assessment of defence land lying unused for a long time in various parts of the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to utilise such lands?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). Defence land holdings are reviewed from time to time by the concerned user Service for ensuring optimisation of land use. No separate assessment of land, apparently lying unused, is being carried out, as such lands are not necessarily surplus to Defence requirements but may have been kept vacant for meeting various training and other security needs or for future use.

As per present policy, surplus defence lands are to be disposed of through public auctions.

Disposal by direct sale can also be considered in the following order of priority to the agencies indicated below:

1. Other Ministries of the Central Government.

2. State Governments.

3. Local bodies.

4. Educational and Charitable Institutions.

5. Ex-Servicemen.

Ex-Servicemen can be offered only one building plot where the land is being sold after preparation of a layout plan.

Mining Industries in Goa

5947. SHRI VJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining industry in Goa is facing a setback in imports from Japan;

(b) whether the fall in the Japanese demand for Goan minerals is due to competition from other countries; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to make Goan minerals more competitive and retaining Japan as its main importer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Lower off-take of iron ore by Japanese steel Mills during 1992-93 in view of the high inventory of iron ore with them and the forecast of lower production of steel, may marginally affect mining industry in Goa.

(c) In order to render mineral export from India competitive in the international market, benefit under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act has been extended to exports of processed minerals apart from the advantage of Dollar-Rupee convertibility under the exports including minerals and ores.