

[English]

Disinvestment Policy

2242. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are pursuing the Public Sector Undertakings disinvestment policy in luke-warm pace;

(b) whether the PSU disinvestment policy has resulted in any appreciable reduction in public debt and associated interest burden;

(c) whether the turn over of PSUs is below 3% of the capital invested in PSUs;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to consider application of commercial principles in public sector enterprises and also reduction, in phases, of the gross subsidy being given to power sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The limited exercise of disinvestment *inter alia* is aimed at raising resources without inflationary effect to reduce fiscal deficit. Now according to the Common Minimum Programme the said resources would be spent on education and health in backward areas and for PSUs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). PSUs are expected to operate along Commercial lines and by and large they do so. The CPSUs in the Power Sector already run on Commercial Principles and are not being given any subsidy.

Export of Prawn

2243. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to encourage prawn exports during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the annual target set up for its export during the remaining period of Eighth Plan; and

(c) the achievements made so far and the estimated contributions of prawn exporters from Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Prawns constitute one of the most important items in exports of marine products from India. In order to boost export of prawn from India, shrimp farming has been identified as an extreme focus item. The Government of India has been implementing through the Marine

Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a number of promotional schemes for augmenting exports of prawns through aquaculture. During the Eighth Five Year Plan a target was set to develop one lakh hectares of area for shrimp farming and currently around 1.19 lakh hectare has already been brought under shrimp farming. Besides this, the export of prawns, which stood at 76080 MT valued at Rs. 975.43 crores at the end of the year 1991-92 increased to 95697 MT valued at Rs. 2356.43 crores at the end of the year 1995-96. During the current year, which, happens to be the last year of the Eighth Five Year Plan, 108450 MT of prawns valued at Rs. 2964 crores are targeted to be exported. Against this target, 59910 MT of prawns valued at Rs. 1475.88 crores have been exported in the period (April-September) 1996-97. The estimated contribution from the State of Kerala in the year 1996-97 is 42,700 MT valued at Rs. 561.02 crores.

Bank Dues Against Sick Units

2244. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of sick units and the total financial liabilities thereof as on date;

(b) the details of the policy for recovery of dues of financial institutions and commercial banks from these units;

(c) the details of existing provisions to protect the interest of workers including their dues from these units; and

(d) the efforts being made to curb this spreading menace in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per the information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total number of sick/weak units with outstanding bank credit of scheduled commercial banks as at the end of March 1995 (latest available) were as under :

	(Rs. crores)	
Category	No. of Units	Outstanding Bank Credit
SSI Sick	268815	3547.16
Non-SSI Sick	1915	8739.61
Non-SSI Weak	476	1452.20
Total	271206	1373.97

(b) and (d). Detailed guidelines have been issued by RBI regarding formulation/implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of sick/weak units (including sick SSI units) considered potentially viable for their revival. Rehabilitation packages *inter-alia*, provide for funding of existing dues of banks and