

undisputed dues, linkages to GEB Power Stations had at time been restricted to the extent of payments.

The linkages sanctioned by SLC vis-a-vis actual supplies of coal to GEB Power houses during the last three years are as under:

Year	(In'000 tonnes)	
	Linkages	Actual despatches
1994-95	13965	11343
1995-96	13425	12135
1996-97	12240	12148
		(Provisional)

(e) The future coal requirements of GEB will be met adequately subject to payment record and improving unloading performance by the power houses.

#### National Bank for Powerloom Sector

2778. SHRI SHANTI LAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council has suggested for setting up of a National Bank for powerloom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Textiles has received proposal for setting up of a National Powerloom Development Bank for Powerloom Sector from the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council.

(b) and (c) The working Capital and other loan requirements of the Powerloom Sector can be met by NABARD and SIDBI and hence the proposal for setting up a separate National Bank for powerloom sector is not being considered.

[Translation]

#### I.T.A. Tribunals

2779. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Government of Haryana, Income-tax payers people's representation, lawyers and Chairman of Tax-bar Associations for setting up of an Appellate Tribunal at Sonapat, Rohtak or Hissar districts of the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard and the time by which the said tribunal is likely to be set up at any one of the above mentioned places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a)

Yes, Sir. A demand has been made for setting up of a Bench of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal at Hissar.

(b) It has not been found possible to accede to this demand due to insufficiency of work. However, Government has recently approved the setting up of a second Bench of the Tribunal at Chandigarh.

#### National Renewal Fund

2780. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of providing assistance from the National Renewal Fund to closed/sick Public Sector Undertakings of the State Governments is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so the details thereof and the time by which the State Governments are likely to be informed about the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The National Renewal Fund (NRF) has been set up by Government in February, 1992 to provide a social safety net for workers affected by technology upgradation, modernisation and industrial restructuring of Indian Industry. Proposals for Financial assistance from the National Renewal Fund have been received from some State Governments.

However, assistance from NRF is presently restricted only to Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings and to the schemes for counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to rationalised workers.

#### Brito Finance and Trading Company

2781. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many finance companies in Delhi have been misleading the people through advertisement and take 10 per cent of the loan amount from the loan applicants and thousands of rupees are collected in advance in the name of file charges but neither the loan is given nor the advance taken is repaid and the applicant has to face a lot of difficulties to withdraw their amount;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard through some Members of Parliament against Brito Finance and Trading Co. (Regd.) B-255, phase-I, Naraina Industrial Area, New Delhi-20;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) While there have been reports of irregularities committed by some non-banking financial companies in different parts of the country, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not come across any case of taking 10 per cent of loan as commission and taking

of file charges from applicants. RBI has deputed an officer to make enquiry in this regard and he has been informed that the Brito finance and Trading Co. Ltd., New Delhi is a consultancy firm dealing with industrial project loans, bank loans for plant and machinery, working capital etc. The firm provides assistance to borrowers in getting loans sanctioned and it earns commission for the services rendered.

(b) No such complaint appears to have been received in Banking Division in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

#### Foreign Donations

2782. SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH:

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE:

SHRI R. DEVADASS:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Efforts on to let Cong. of the hook" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 23, 1997;

(b) if so, the factual position thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the opinion of the Correspondent of the paper and not that of Government.

(c) The matter is pending in Delhi High Court. Since the matter is subjudice, no views can be expressed at this stage.

#### Restriction on Imports

2783. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed restrictions on the import of some agricultural and consumer goods;

(b) if so, the details of those items;

(c) whether the Government propose to relax the restriction on the import of some farm goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Import of agricultural and consumer goods continues to be restricted under the current Export & Import Policy. However, import of certain agricultural & consumer goods is

permitted either freely or against the transferable Special Import Licence. Item-wise import policy of various goods is indicated in the ITC (HS) Classifications of Export & Import Items, copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

(c) & (d) Review of Export and Import Policy is an on going process and changes in it are made from time to time as and when considered necessary.

#### Export of Gold Jewellery

2784. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of gold jewellery exported from India during each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that exports of gold jewellery from the country have virtually come to a stand still in recent months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to boost jewellery export during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The value of gold jewellery exported from India during each of the last three years is given below:

Year	Value (US \$ Million)
1994-95	421.20
1995-96	480.40
1996-97	511.80

(Source: DGCI&S)

(b) No, Sir. The exports of gold jewellery during the period April-June, 1997 vis-a-vis April-June, 1996 is given below:

	Value (US \$ Million)
April - June '97 (Pro.)	156.23
April - June '96	146.97

(Source: GJEPC, Mumbai)

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Gold Jewellery has been identified by the Government of India as an Extreme Focus product and continues to be a thrust area of our exports. Accordingly, the Government has taken a number of steps to boost exports from this sector during 1997-98 which include : (i) in order to increase the supply of gold, RBI has been authorised to nominate additional agencies for the import and supply of precious metals to exporters; (ii) third party