

(c) the measures taken/being taken to remove the impediments if any in setting up completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) So far, no contract has been awarded for setting up washeries on "Build-Own-Operator" (BOO) basis. However, Letters of Intent have been issued for setting up of the following washeries :

Name of Washery	Area	Throughput capacity (mty)
1. Kalinga	Talcher Coalfields in Orissa	8.0
2. Ananta-Bharatpur	-do-	5.2
3. Dipka	Korba Coalfields in Madhya Pradesh	6.0
4. Sasti	Wardha Valley Coalfields in Madhya Pradesh	1.5

(b) and (c) Conclusion of the agreements for these washeries is at a final stage. There have been delays in finalising the agreement for supply of washed coal because of various factors including the reluctance of the purchasing power houses to accept the washed coal as has been negotiated with the washery operator. Award of contract for washery is held up because of delay in concluding supply agreement with the concerned consumers who have been raising a number of issues from time to time necessitating prolonged discussion at various levels.

For concluding the contract for setting up of the washeries, it is absolutely essential to have a back to back agreement with the purchaser of washed coal.

Customs Notifications

2736. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Customs Notifications which correspond to the charges made in the long term EXIM policy for 1997-2002 have been pending;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken to issue those notifications and the details of such notifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) After notification of the new EXIM Policy 1997-2002, a large number of notifications on the Customs and Excise side have been issued in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce. A few of the issues are under examination in

consultation with the said Ministry and a decision will be taken shortly.

More Patients Tetter into BIFR Hospital

2737. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of BIFR of 6 months ending June 97 has been reviewed as reported in the Economic Times dt. 14.7.97 under the captioned "More patients tetter into BIFR hospital";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations reported therein and facts of the industrial sickness and disposal position of such cases by the BIFR;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed in terms of strengthening BIFR, its working with full strength, appointment of additional members to deal with the increasing work load and related reforms; and

(d) the details of "action plan" formulated for restructuring BIFR during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that during the period from 1.1.1997 to 30.6.1997, 92 references were registered with BIFR under the provisions of sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). During the same period BIFR has disposed of 103 cases, by sanctioning 26 rehabilitation schemes and recommending 55 cases for winding up. 22 cases were dismissed as non-maintainable under SICA. As on 30.6.1997, 369 cases were pending at various stages of enquiry as against 336 cases pending as on 31.12.1996.

(c) and (d) Government has introduced a Bill in the Parliament named as Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1997 to replace the existing SICA.

Fraud of Dena Bank

2738. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT:

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYYA:

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has unearthed a 31.50 crore rupees scam in the Union Bank of India and Dena Bank situated in Mumbai, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether this amount has since been recovered;
- (d) the number of persons arrested in this regard and the details of the action being taken against them;
- (e) whether the banking frauds have been steeply increasing and the involvement of bank employees have also come to light;
- (f) if so, the details of bank frauds came to light during this year; and
- (g) the concrete measures taken by the Government to check such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a fraud involving Rs. 31.79 crores was reported by Dena Bank during the last week of June, 1997 at its Mumabi (Gulalwadi) branch. The fraud came to light when the bank initiated steps to reconcile huge difference in the balance with the central clearing department account at the Gulalwadi and the service branch. A group of companies had opened accounts both with Dena Bank's Gulalwadi branch as well as United Bank of India's Kalbadevi branch. Cheques drawn on the accounts in the United Bank of India Kalbadevi branch were deposited in their accounts with Gulalwadi branch of Dena Bank. The parties were unauthorisedly accommodated by Gulalwadi branch of Dena Bank by giving immediate credit to the account-holders and the instruments were sent for clearing with delay which in some cases was 7-10 days. The parties were also favoured unauthorisedly so as to have their cheques cleared through the clearing mechanism for high value clearing branches although the Gulalwadi branch did not fall in the area of high value clearing branches. 49 cheques aggregating to Rs.31.04 crores were afforded credit in November-December, 1996 and the cheques were not sent for clearing thereby fraudulently siphoning off banks funds. The branch copy of outward clearing schedules was also manipulated.

Two officers of the Gulalwadi branch of Dena Bank have been placed under suspension. The bank has initiated action to look into the role of other officers also. Central Bureau of Investigation have also registered a regular case in this regard and have arrested two officials of the bank as well as one private person.

(e) to (g) The number of frauds reported by public sector banks of the RBI during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 were 2266, 1890 and 1954 respectively. The RBI has reported that during the quarter 1st January to 31st March, 1997, 631 frauds have been reported by commercial banks.

The Public Sector Banks at the instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for prevention of frauds. These steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, advising the banks of modus-operandi in ingenious cases alongwith required safeguards to prevent

their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas by the RBI.

Translation]

Textile Mills in Uttar Pradesh

2739. DR. SATYANARAIN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy formulated for smooth functioning of textile industry in the country;
- (b) the measures adopted for implementation of the said policy and the outcome thereof;
- (c) the number of textile mills functioning as on June 30, 1997 in Madhya Pradesh alongwith the number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof;
- (d) the details of the measures taken for the rehabilitation of the workers of Binod Bimal Mills in Ujjain;
- (e) the amount of provident fund paid to these workers and the amount remained to be paid; and
- (f) the time by which the remaining provident fund is likely to be paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The present textile policy covers the different segments of textile industry in a comprehensive manner, and Government also constantly monitors the health of textile sector with a view to ensuring that the growth is not retarded in any manner and as and when there is a development in any segment of the textile industry requiring attention, appropriate measures are taken through policy interventions.

(c) As on 31.5.97, 21,091 workers have been rendered jobless due to closure of 9 mills in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Government of India operates the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless due to premanent/partial closure of the mills. The Scheme is applicable throughout the country.

(e) and (f) The matter pertains to State Government.

[English]

Purchase of Immovable Property by KVIC

2740. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Khadi & Village Industries Commission regarding purchase of immovable property;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;