

**World Bank Assistance to Maharashtra**

554. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided financial assistance to Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance and the areas/sector for which the World Bank has provided financial assistance;

(c) the details of the projects pertaining to the State pending with the Union Government for approval and since when; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, There are five World Bank aided ongoing State Sector projects in the State of Maharashtra, the details of which are as follows:—

Name of the project	Loan/credit Amount (US\$M)	Sector
1. Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation	109.09	Water Resource Mgt.
2. Bombay Sewage Disposal	192.00	Water Resource Mgt.
3. Maharashtra Power	337.33	Power
4. Second Maharashtra Power	350.00	Power
5. Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation	220.70	Urban

Besides these State Sector projects, there is one Multi-State project namely Second Technician Education project and several Central Sector projects in which the State of Maharashtra is beneficiary.

(c) and (d) No project proposal for possible World Bank assistance to the State of Maharashtra is pending with the Union Government.

**Small Paper Mills**

555. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small paper mills set up during each of the last three years and the locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government are encouraging small paper mills to use agricultural material as raw material; and

(c) the ratio of paper provided by small paper mills vis-a-vis big paper mills in the country during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Paper Industry stands fully de-licensed. During the last three years the number of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum filed and LOIs issued for the paper industry are as under:—

Year	No. of IEMs	No. of LOIs
1995	355	13
1996	271	7
1997	128 (Upto 31.10.97)	2 (Upto 17.7.97)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Approximately 60% of the production is from small mills.

**Prices of Cardamom**

556. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cardamom is not fetching reasonable price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations for ensuring remunerative price to the growers; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The all India average price of small cardamom during the period August-July (1996-97) was Rs. 365.82 per kg. as compared to Rs. 201.58 per kg. during the period August-July (1995-96). During the last 3 months of the current year, the prices of cardamom have shown a mixed trend as can be adduced from details given below:—

1997	
August	: Rs. 269.08/Kg.
September	: Rs. 303.38/Kg.
October	: Rs. 275.95/Kg.

(Source: Spices Board)

The mixed trend in prices is mainly due to the expectation of the market of increased production of small cardamom during the current year.