

[English]

H.M.T.

1117. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Machine Tools Limited is manufacturing Kannada numbers digital watches for gents;

(b) if so, how many such watches proposed to be manufactured during 1996-97;

(c) whether Kannada numbers digital watches for ladies are not being manufactured;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to manufacture Kannada numbers ladies watches also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. But numbered gents quartz analog watches are being manufactured by HMT in Kannada, Gurumukhi and Malayalam languages so far. About 500 such watches are planned during 1996-97.

(c) to (e) HMT has not manufactured any quartz digital watches for ladies. However, quartz analog ladies watches with numerals in the languages mentioned above are planned by HMT during 1997-98.

Goswami Report on PSUs

1118. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Goswami Report which has recommended inter-alia that the Government's equity in Public Sector Undertakings reduced to 24 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main recommendations of the report;

(c) the time by which the Government are likely to take action on these recommendations; and

(d) to what extent it is likely to help in revamping the Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) There is no such proposal before the Government.

(b) The Goswami Report was commissioned by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and therefore Government do not have any information on the details of the recommendations.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Benami Accounts in Banks

1119. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 432 dated 22nd November, 1996 regarding "benami accounts in banks" and state :

(a) whether the information asked for has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Some information has been received from the concerned banks and RBI. Additional information has been sought in this connection.

European Commission Aid

1120. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Commission (EC) has stopped extending aid to India for the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Balance of Trade with UK

1121. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether trade between India and United Kingdom had doubled during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) further steps taken by the Government to increase the trade with UK?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The details of Indo UK bilateral trade during the last few years is as follows :-

Year	Indo UK biateral Trade in Rs/crores
1993-94	9143.79
1994-95	10200.57
1995-96	13149.53
1996-97 (April-Nov., 1996)	9594.63

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) Fifteen products have been identified for undertaking special export promotion efforts so as to increase export of Indian goods to foreign markets including UK. Some of the other supporting measures in this direction include participation in international trade fairs, intensified exchange of business delegations, supply of necessary information and extending necessary facilities to commercial organisations, setting up of warehousing facilities, promotion of joint ventures etc.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

1122. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'Nidar' :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open showrooms of the products manufactured by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in foreign countries keeping in view the increased demand of its products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of the countries where such showrooms are being opened?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government has not decided to open showrooms of the products manufactured by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in foreign countries.

(b) Does not arise.

Devolution of Resources to States

1123. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Ministry Supports finance panel's views" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated January 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether his ministry has fully recommended the Tenth Finance Commission's alternative schemes for devolution of resources to States;

(d) the views expressed by the State Governments in this regard;

(e) the total recommendations made by the Tenth Finance Commission; and

(f) the details of recommendations out of them accepted by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) As a follow up action on Finance Minister's Budget Speech on 22nd July, 1996, a Discussion Paper or the Alternative Scheme of Devolution recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission was brought out and laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament on 20th December, 1996 and copies were circulated to the Hon'ble Members of the Parliament. The matter was placed before the Inter-State Council on 15-1-1997 and is under their consideration.

Investment by PSUs in UTI

1124. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lift ban on Public Sector Undertakings for investing their funds into UTI Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith modalities of investment;

(c) to what extent it is likely to be helpful;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the details of the PSUs which have been identified for the said investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) The Government have removed on 14.2.97, the restrictions on investment of funds by all PSUs in the units/schemes of UTI. This would enable UTI to manage surplus funds of PSUs in a relatively safe manner with an attractive yield. The UTI units are recognised as eligible securities under Indian Trust Act 1882 and the regulatory frame work of SEBI.

External Commercial Borrowings Loan

1125. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of External Commercial Borrowings loans sanctioned by the Government so far;

(b) which sector has got the maximum amount sanctioned;

(c) the names of the Companies alongwith their respective interests in which they have received approvals;

(d) the number of applications received by the Government for External Commercial Borrowings loans during the last three years; and

(e) the criteria adopted and time taken to clear these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Proposals aggregating to USD 8333.392 million have been sanctioned by the Government during the current financial year upto 21st February, 1997.