

per recruitment rules in vogue.

- (iv) The Consultant appointed to look into various matters relating to SC/ST employees in ITPO has already submitted his reports which are being considered as and when occasion arises.

#### Problems of exporters and importers

4242. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the World Banks study deficiencies in transport, ports, power and telecommunication are the basic impediments in the growth of export competitiveness of the country;

(b) whether according to the Asian Development Bank, obsolete equipment, poor management and low labour productivity are the other problems faced by the exporters-importers of the country;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the action the Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The world Bank in its country Economic Memorandum 1996 has indicated that deficiencies in transport, ports, power and telecommunications are a major handicap for India's growth and export competitiveness

(b) The Asian Development Bank has not commented that obsolete equipment, poor management and low labour productivity as the problems faced by the exporters-importers of the country.

(c) and (d) Government of India on its own has, however, taken a number of steps to improve the efficiency in transport, port, power & telecommunication sectors. The steps like providing a number of fiscal incentives extended to these sectors, tax holidays, exemption from income tax on the income of dedicated infrastructure funds, formation of new Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC), resources for the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), private sector entry in these fields, proposal for creation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) etc. are some of the steps taken by the Government in this direction.

#### Merger of Banks

4243. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to merge various

smaller banks and to set up a bigger bank in order to compete with global banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to start functioning ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Recruitment of Handicapped and Women in PSUs

4244. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped and women recruited in the public sector undertakings during each of the last three years, till date; and

(b) the schemes formulated and the target fixed for recruitment of such people in each undertaking during the years 1997 and 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the information available from 194 public sector undertakings, 257 handicapped persons and 6,393 women were recruited in public sector undertakings during the period of three years from 1994 to 1996.

(b) As far as handicapped persons are concerned, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act was passed by Parliament which is an important step in the empowerment of persons with disabilities through creation of equal opportunities and protection of their rights. With the enactment of this law, the reservation to physically handicapped persons which was provided only in Group 'C' and 'D' posts has now been extended to identified Group 'A' and 'B' posts filled through Direct Recruitment. Instructions have been issued to the effect that not less than 3% for persons or class of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision (ii) hearing impairment (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, in the posts identified for each disability.

As far as women are concerned, no specific reservation has been provided in employment matters and they are considered on merit for various positions in public sector undertakings.

### Petitions of Public Interest

4245. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petitions of public interest filed in the Supreme Court and High Courts of the country till date, courtwise;

(b) the number of petitions of public interest pending in Delhi High Court and Supreme Court at present; and

(c) the number of petitions out of these related to Government scams and non-Government scams separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Investment of Nationalised Banks in Industrial sector

4245. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total investment made by nationalised banks in industrial sector during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generated information in the manner asked for. As per the present reporting system, scheduled commercial banks, are required to furnish to RBI on a quarterly basis, the data in respect of cumulative amount of advances of Rs. 5 crore and above, sanctioned and outstanding as at the end of the respective quarters, in respect of each borrower. The position in respect of advances sanctioned and outstanding to the industrial sector as on the last Friday of the quarter ended June 1993, June 1994 and June 1995 is as under :

(Rs. crore)

	Industrial Sector	
	Limits Sanctioned	Amount Outstanding
June 1993	41557.3	29060.2
June 1994	53078.6	28973.5
June 1995	52247.3	37473.2

### Textiles Quota Policies

4247. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed a task force for reviewing the current garment and textiles quota policies;

(b) if so, whether task force has also been asked to suggest changes for new quota policy to be introduced from 1997 onwards ;

(c) whether the Government have asked the Apparel Export Promotion Council in the meeting which was called for ascertaining their views;

(d) if so, the number of exporters attended the meeting and the suggestions made therein; and

(e) to what extent the Government have accepted their suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (e) : The Government had constituted a Task Force in June 1996 to give its recommendations on the new long term Textiles Export Entitlement Policy for the period 1997-1999 and for making changes, if felt necessary, in the extant Garments Exports Entitlement Policy. The Task Force received suggestions from different Textile Export Promotion Councils, including the Apparel Export Promotion Council, exporters associations, individual exporters and also held open house meetings with exporters interest groups in Mumbai, Madras and New Delhi. The Task Force submitted its report to the Government on 31 July, 1996. After detailed examination of the recommendations of the Task Force the Government announced the Textiles Export Entitlement Policy and Garments Export Entitlement Policy valid for a period of three years (1997-99), on 14.10.96 and 16.10.96 respectively.

### Setting up Car Unit by Toyota

4248. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up car unit in Andhra Pradesh by Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have given clearance of the said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the agreement thereto ?