

1	2	3
89.	Shanthi Theatre	27.03
90.	Sujatha Films P. Ltd.	650.42
91.	Late Smitha	10.26
92.	P. Soundarya	14.93
93.	A. Sreedevi	79.61
94.	Srividya	12.13
95.	Sushitra Mohanlal	17.90
96.	K. Subramaniam	213.75
97.	P. Vasu	32.52
98.	S.P. Venkannababu	14.39
99.	G. Venkateswaran	82.09
100.	R. Vijayachandren	34.29

**Access of Foreign Companies to
Primary Market**

4326. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Foreign Companies must have access to primary market' appearing in The Hindustan Times dated March 9, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the urgency needed in the infrastructure sector and other points raised in the above referred news; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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

(b) and (c) Government has taken a number of steps to help infrastructure projects access the primary market and encourage private sector participation in infrastructure. Any company incorporated in India and complying with all necessary statutory requirements can raise funds from the primary market. Other measures include income tax exemption for any dividend, interest or long-term capital gains arising from investments for development, maintenance or operation of an infrastructure facility : five year tax holiday for companies developing, maintaining and operating infrastructure facilities such as roads, bridges,

airports, seaports, railway projects, tele-communications, water supply, sanitation and sewerage; and tax rebate under sec. 88 for investments in approved securities of public companies if the proceeds are applied to create a new infrastructure facility or for generation/distribution of power.

To provide long term finance for infrastructure sector the Budget for 1996-97 announced establishment of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5000 crore. The IDFC has since been incorporated under the Companies Act on January 31, 1997.

The Budget for 1997-98 has extended five year tax holiday to oil exploration and Industrial parks. The Budget has also announced other measures for telecommunications, oil, gas and power projects, coach and highways to attract more investment to these sectors.

**Bench of Allahabad High Court in
Western U.P.**

4327. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed all the formalities regarding setting up of benches of Allahabad High Courts at Western U.P. and some other place of the States :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when these benches are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Voting Rights of Army Personnels

4328. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to streamline the postal ballot procedures in order to enable defence personnel to exercise their franchise in larger number in elections to Parliament and State Assemblies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Mining Operation by Western Coal Field Ltd.

4329. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Western Coal Fields Ltd. as started mining operations at a site near an ordnance factory in Chandipur in violation of established guidelines;

(b) if so, there reasons for permitting mining operation in violation of guidelines; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. As per the guidelines issued by the Director General of Mines Safety, the blasting safety zone required around an opencast mine is 500 metres. Nearest mines of Western Coal fields Ltd., namely Chargaon OC (operations started in 1992-93), Telwasa OC and Dhorwasa OC (operations yet to start) are approximately 7 Kms. away from the boundary of ordnance factory, Chandrapur. Another mine namely Bhatadih OC (operations started in 1995-96) is about 9 kms. away from the boundary of the ordnance factory.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Production Rate of Coal

4330. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the per-labourer, per shift average rate of coal production in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there is a vast difference between the rate of underground coal production and that of open cast mines;

(c) if so, the average rates of production thereof separately; and

(d) the production rate of other coal producing

countries such as Australia and America ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a difference between average rate of coal production from underground and opencast mines in CIL and SCCL. The average figures of output per manshift (OMS) of underground and opencast mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) for the last three years are as under :-

	CIL			SCCL		
	UG	OC	Overall (OMS)	UG	OC	Overall (OMS)
1993-94	0.56	4.00	1.52	0.71	4.38	1.05
1994-95	0.57	4.36	1.54	0.69	3.63	1.08
1995-96	0.56	4.73	1.77	0.74	3.66	1.23

(d) Based on the available figures of 1992, the OMS of underground and opencast mines of Australia and USA is as under :

	(In tonnes)	
	Underground	Opencast
Australia	15.60	34.68
USA	18.00	40.20

Licence for Foreign Transaction

4331. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for requesting grant of licence to NABARD by the Reserve bank of India to undertake foreign exchange transactions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Export of Dairy Items

4332. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :