

VII. Corporate borrowers who have raised ECB for import of capital goods and services through Bonds/FRN/ Syndicated loans will be permitted to remit funds into India and deploy the same as per their business judgement, as a interim measure, till the actual import of capital goods and services takes place or upto one year, whichever is less. In case borrowers decide to deploy the funds abroad till the approved end-use requirement arises, they can do so as per the RBI's extant guidelines.

3. Other terms and conditions outlined in the guidelines on Policies and Procedures for External Commercial Borrowings issued on 19th June, 1996 will continue to remain in force. Consolidated guidelines on ECB Policies & Procedures incorporating the above mentioned modifications will be issued shortly.

4. These changes are effective from 1st of April, 1997.

5. The objective of the modification is to give priority and provide greater flexibility to investor in critical infrastructure sectors, to give priority to exporters in accessing ECB resources and to give additional flexibility to those incurring longer term debt. The total volume of approvals will be carefully monitored consistent with Prudent Debt Management.

F.No. 4 (1)/97-ECB New Delhi, the 31st March, 1997.

The Press Information Bureau is requested to give wide publicity to this Press Release.

(U. SARAT CHANDRAN)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Press Information Officer,
Press Information Bureau,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi.

Child Labour

5009. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over a thousand child labour from different parts of the country converged down to the capital on March 30-31, 1997 for a public hearing before a "Jury" to tell their tale of lost childhood and to attend a convention;

(b) if so, the main demands and the decisions taken by the Jury ; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demands and recommendations made in the public hearing, *inter-alia*, included the provision of free

compulsory, relevant and quality elementary education to all children, prohibition of the employment of children upto the age of 14 in all sectors, and strict enforcement of the directions of the Supreme Court in its judgement dated the 10th December, 1996.

(c) The Government is committed to the elimination of child labour from all occupations and industries and making free and compulsory elementary education a Fundamental Right. Government has already initiated a series of steps in this regard and these efforts will continue till the objective of complete elimination of child labour is achieved. The State/UT Governments have also initiated action for the implementation of the directions of the Supreme Court on child labour.

Legal Dues to the Jobless Workers of Textile Mill

5010. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of workers rendered unemployed because of closure of Textile Mills or liquidation of Mill in Mumbai and Gujarat ;

(b) if so, the details of payment of the legal dues of workers; and

(c) the estimated number of Textile workers rendered unemployed by Mills of Mumbai and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exploration of Oil

5011. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the plan allocation for exploration of Oil and Gas fields in Orissa;

(b) whether Government propose to assign oil/gas exploration in Orissa to private agency/ONGC rather than Oil India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) In the annual Plan for 1997-98, no allocation has been made for exploration of oil and gas in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Under the New Exploration Licencing Policy recently announced by the Government, all prospective areas for the exploration of oil and gas, including Orissa, are proposed to be thrown open for investment by the private/public sector.