

below, year-wise:

Year	Quantity of diesel consumption (in Kilolitres)	Amount spent (Rs. crores)
1995-96	46,385	34.51
1996-97	47,894	41.11
1997-98	51,585	56.57

(c) to (h) As a result of a surprise check jointly undertaken by the Vigilance Department of BCCL and the CBI on 3rd October, 1997 in the diesel dispensing unit of Muraihid Colliery in Barora Area of BCCL, misappropriation of 7456 litres of diesel amounting to Rs. 60,104 by two officials of the unit was detected. On 4th March, 1998, the CBI have registered a Regular Case in this matter for investigation. The CBI investigation report has not yet been received. However, the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of BCCL issued directives on 9th March, 1998 and 2nd April, 1998 to all the Chief General Managers/General Managers and Heads of Department of the company to check irregularities on the procurement and utilisation of diesel in BCCL and the company has been making regular monitoring to prevent recurrence of the irregularities.

[English]

#### Trade Relations with China

2662. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the action taken by the Government to maintain the trade relation with China?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : Maintaining the trade relation with China is an ongoing and continuous effort. The relationship is based on the bilateral trade agreement between the two nations. The objectives of the agreement are attained by holding periodic meetings at the Ministerial level, official level reviews, and Indo-China Business Council Meetings, as also by encouraging increased participation in each other's trade fairs and facilitating and resolving relationship between traders of the two nations.

[Translation]

#### Closure of Government Bodies

2663. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government bodies recommended to be closed down by the Government last year on the basis of financial evaluation and considering them purposeless and uneconomical;

(b) whether National Hydroelectric Corporation, Central

Water Commission and Central Irrigation and Power Board are also included therein;

(c) if so, the action taken/being taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the activities of these bodies are likely to be examined?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Last year the Government weeded out certain schemes of different Ministries/Departments which were identified as being redundant, non-essential and having outlived their utility on the basis of an exercise carried out by a Committee constituted by the Ministry of Finance as modified by subsequent correspondence with the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and the Financial Advisers. They did not envisage closure of any Government body.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Conditions of Textile Workers

2664. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that working long time in cotton textile mills is proving to be health hazardous for workers; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Government in improving the conditions of workers in Cotton Textile Mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Exposure to significant level of cotton dust has got the potential to result in Byssinosis-a notifiable disease under the Factories' Act 1948 and compensable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Act.

(b) Appropriate provisions already exist under the Factories Act and the Model Rules framed thereunder, Facilities for the health of workers, including National and Regional Referral Diagnostic Centres, ESI hospitals/dispensaries etc. also exist.

#### HMT Watch Company, Karnataka

2665. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether HMT Watch Company, Tumkur (Karnataka) is running into losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the time since when it is running into losses;

(c) whether the Company had stopped making payment to its ancillary units;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to revive the company and amount of grant/aid provided to the company for making payment to its ancillary units;

(f) whether any Committee has been set up to examine the mismanagement in the company;

(g) if so, the findings of the Committee; and

(h) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) HMT Watch factory, Tumkur has been incurring losses since 1993-94 due to competition, low capacity utilisation and working capital constraint.

(c) and (d) The company has been making payments to its ancillary units in line with the cash inflow.

(e) The performance of HMT is regularly monitored and reviewed by the Government.

(f) to (h) A fact finding Committee headed by Shri P.K.J. Menon was constituted on 14.2.94 to assess the working of HMT Watch factory, Tumkur. The Committee had submitted its report on 15.4.94. The main recommendations of the Committee were that HMT should economise and rationalise its operations, streamline the purchase procedures, increase emphasis on quality and marketing techniques, improve security check and phase out uneconomic units.

HMT had initiated action to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

#### **Deposit Investment Ratio of Banks**

2666. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the deposit and investment ratio of nationalised banks in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the amount invested in agriculture, small scale industries and large industries during the above period;

(c) the amount invested under Centrally sponsored schemes out of it and the details of the funds directly invested by the banks;

(d) whether there is a move by the nationalised banks not to provide loans to agricultural sector of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

#### **New Projects of BCCL**

2667 SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :  
SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of new projects launched by Bharat Coking Coal Limited since its inception;

(b) the amount spent on each of these upto March 31, 1998; and

(c) the details of present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Since inception, BCCL has taken up 40 new projects. Out of these, 7 projects are under implementation; 29 projects have been completed and in 4 projects coal reserves have been exhausted. Details of these projects (location, expenditure incurred till March, 1998 and their status) are given in the attached Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of New Projects in BCCL sanctioned since Nationalisation*

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State	District	Coal-field	Area	Expenditure upto March, 98 (Rs. in crores)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

#### **Under Implementation**

1.	Block-III OC	Bihar	Dhanbad	Jharia	Barora	15.23	Implementation of the project has been kept in abeyance due to fire and non-receipt of DGMS approval.
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