

29. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.
30. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.
31. Steel Authority of India Ltd.
32. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
33. Container Corporation of India.
34. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
35. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
36. Engineers India Ltd.
37. Gas Authority of India Ltd.
38. Indian Tourism Development Corporation
39. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.

[English]

Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987

2673. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRIMATI CHITRALEKHA RANI BHONSLE :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SMT. GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating the dilution of the present provisions of the 'Jute Packing Material (Compulsory use in packing material) Act, 1987' which is due to expire by the end of March, 1999;

(b) whether the Government propose to have consultations with the Jute Industry in this regard before arriving at any decision;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the violation of Packing Commodities Act in which the use of jute packaging material is mandatory;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the name of the industries violating the Act and action taken by the Government against them; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for proper implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The Standing Advisory Committee, (S.A.C.) constituted under the provisions of the JPM Act, 1987 has recently held three meetings in order to take a fresh look at the entire situation and to review, if necessary the present order on reservation which is due to expire at the end of June, 1999.

(b) and (c) The S.A.C. had held its meeting in three sessions. During the second session on 15.5.1998 different associations and organisations including representatives of Indian Jute Mills Association, Jute Laminators Association and Government of West Bengal were given an opportunity to present their views before the Committee.

(d) to (g) The provisions of Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987 have been consistently complied with by the Foodgrains and Sugar sectors since the inception of the Act. There have been some violations of the Act by the Urea industry, while Cement Sector has practically discontinued the use of Jute bags altogether. The Government has issued instructions from time to time all Urea manufacturing units for strict compliance with the Act. There has been a resultant improvement in the Urea Sector abiding by the Act. The Government has been appropriately contesting a spate of litigations in various High Courts filed by various worker unions, consumer interest bodies etc. Stay order have been obtained in some cases and simultaneously transfer applications have also been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court for clubbing of similar matters before the apex Court.

[Translation]

Aid By Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India

2674. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of assistance provided by the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India to the sick industrial units in the country during 1997-98 indicating the location of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) was converted into a new Government company viz. Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited (IIBI) w.e.f. 27th March 1997. IIBI has reported that an amount of Rs. 5.14 crores was disbursed in 1997-98 to three sick/weak units located in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa.

[English]

Bidi Industry

2675. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bidi industry has been badly affected due to production of mini cigarettes in the country; particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to save bidi industry and to protect the interests of bidi workers?