

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Based on the reports received from prominent States producing bidis, including MP, as also the production figures of bidis based on CESS collection, there has been no decline in the production of bidis in the country. There were certain apprehensions about the adverse effect on the bidi industry due to reduction of excise duty on mini cigarettes in 1994. However, in the subsequent budgets the excise duty on mini cigarettes has been continuously raised from the level of Rs. 60 per thousand to Rs. 100 per thousand.

(c) Bidi manufacturing is recognised as an industrial activity registerable as a small scale industry. These units are entitled for Central/State Government incentives, concessions and facilities as available to small scale sector. A number of welfare schemes in the field of health, housing, education and recreation are being implemented by Ministry of Labour for the welfare of bidi workers and their family members.

#### **World Bank Assistance to Jalgaon Ajanta Caves Road**

2676. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra regarding World Bank assistance for construction of Jalgaon-Ajanta Caves Road in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Recruitment in Income Tax Department Under Sports Quota**

2677. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a 'sports quota' for the recruitment in Income Tax Department;

(b) if so, the details of the special schemes, incentives etc. provided by the department particularly to the State, National level sportsmen/sports women;

(c) the details of the sports persons of Delhi belonging to Scheduled Tribe community provided jobs in the Income Tax Department under the Sports quota; and

(d) the details of special incentives provided to the tribal sports persons of Income Tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The policy regarding recruitment and incentives to the sports persons is formulated by Department of Personnel which is applicable to all Departments including Income Tax Department.

(c) There is only one athlete belonging to Scheduled Tribe community recruited against Sports quota namely Ms. Kanti Kapila Toppo, Stenographer.

(d) The special incentives are available to the Sports persons as a Class and there are no separate incentives, for tribal sports persons.

#### **Closure of Jute and Cotton Mills in West Bengal**

2678. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that many jute mills and cotton mills in West Bengal are closed due to lock-out and closure;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to reopen these mills;

(c) whether any of these mills have been referred to BIFR;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon so far;

(e) whether the Government propose to intervene to reopen those mills to save thousand of workers from starvation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) In the State of West Bengal, the operation of 4 jute mills viz. Hastings, Cheviot, Auckland and Ludlow are temporarily suspended. In respect of Cotton mills in West Bengal, 12 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills were temporarily closed mainly due to financial difficulties, lock out and strike.

(b) to (f) Reopening of these mills is a State matter being dealt with by the Labour Department of the State Govt. According to the Industrial Disputes Act, the State Governments are the conciliation authority to settle such disputes. None of the above four Jute Mills in West Bengal stand referred to BIFR. Government has set up BIFR to inquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of such mills. As on 30.4.98, twelve textile mills were registered with BIFR.

[Translation]

#### **Insurance of Vehicles**

2679. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time taken in disposing of the cases of insurance claims relating to vehicles by the Insurance companies;

(b) the company-wise number of claims regarding vehicles filed during the last three years;

(c) the company-wise number of cases pending for one year, two years and three years separately;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any rules for fixing responsibility on any officer for the delay in disposing of such cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) It has been reported by the GIC that majority of the claims are settled within a period of one month after completing necessary formalities/requirements by the claimants and on receipt of all the pertinent documents by the companies.

(b) The number of vehicles claims filed during last three years as reported by companies is given below:

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
National	1,67,805	1,74,861	1,68,082
New India	1,71,752	2,15,444	2,42,820
Oriental	2,03,231	1,84,710	1,79,353
United India	1,62,031	2,00,759	2,46,243
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,04,819</b>	<b>7,75,774</b>	<b>8,36,498</b>

(c) the duration-wise pendency of claims including those in the Courts/Motor Accident Claims Tribunals, as on March 31, 1997, as reported by the GIC, is given below:

	National	New India	Oriental	United India
Upto 1 year	62,600	73,773	110684	59,367
Upto 3 years	33,444	47,788	32,467	33,483
Above 3 years	31,469	56,896	4428	24,351
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,27,513</b>	<b>1,78,457</b>	<b>1,47,579</b>	<b>1,17,201</b>

(d) to (f) The Conduct, Discipline and Appeal (CDA) Rules of the Industry provide for necessary action wherever an official is found guilty of any lapse.

[English]

### Schemes For Development of Handicrafts/ Marketing Centres

2680. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :  
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a number of schemes/proposals from various State Governments for the development of handicrafts;

(b) whether the Government have accorded approval to these schemes/proposals;

(c) if so the details thereof; State-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which these are likely to be approved;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up new handicrafts marketing and service extension centres in the country and the time by which these are likely to start functioning; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) No schemes/proposals have been received by the Government from any State Government during the year 1997-98. However, proposals were received from various State Handicrafts Corporation for the development of handicrafts. The details of such proposals received during 1997-98 and action taken thereon is as per Statement attached.

(d) and (e) The main reasons for not according approval to some proposals is attributed to the fact that they are either received incomplete or utilisation certificate are pending against the concerned Corporation. Moreover, a few proposals could not be considered due to paucity of funds in some schemes and the same will be considered for approval during the current financial year.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to set up new Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres at Aizwal, Baroda or Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Trivandrum and Varanasi. The starting of these Centres is dependent upon the receipt of all the required approvals.