

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The accumulated losses of various subsidiaries of CIL as per audited accounts of 1996-97 are as below :

ECL	-	Rs. 1186.72 Crores
BCCL	-	Rs. 1513.58 Crores

These losses are due to several factors such as old and over exploited working, complex geo-mining conditions, excessive manpower, fire, subsidence etc. The total monetary loss suffered by the various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited so far on account of mine fire is around Rs. 200 crores.

(b) Till date, the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited have spent around Rs. 145 crores for extinguishing/containing the fires in the coal mines.

(c) The extent of success of the fire fighting measures in different subsidiaries as under :

BCCL : Out of 70 fires identified at the time of nationalisation, 10 fires have been completely extinguished. The remaining fires, though not fully extinguished, have been brought under control by and large. The surface area affected by fire has reduced from 17.32 sq. km (1986 estimate) to 9 sq. km. (1996 estimate). The coal locked due to fire has also reduced from 1804 m.te. (1986 estimate) to 1455 m.te. (1996 estimate).

NCL : The fire is under control.

ECL CCL, WCL, SECL, MCL & NEC : The fires in underground mines have been isolated and are being monitored and once the fires have become extinct these areas will be re-opened.

[English]

Anti-Dumping Duties

2738. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken the clear and final decision on the issue of anti-dumping duty on P.T.A. and other commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a difference of opinion between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present stand of the Government on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Final anti-dumping duty was imposed on PTA imported from Republic of Korea, Thailand and Indonesia on the basis of the final recommendations of the Designated Authority vide notification No. 13/98-Customs,

dated 28th April 1998. There are some other cases on which the Designated Authority has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty and which are pending for a final decision. They are under active consideration for decision.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of law governing the imposition of anti-dumping duties, the recommendations are made by the Designated Authority on the basis of investigations conducted, as a result of complaints received from domestic manufacturing industry. These recommendations are examined in the Ministry of Finance which is empowered to decide whether or not to impose an anti-dumping duty on the basis of the recommendation of the Designated Authority.

In case, any clarification is required on any point, the matter is referred back to the Ministry of Commerce, and the final decision is taken after receipt of clarification from them.

National Regional Rural Bank of India

2739. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any final decision has been taken by the Government to set up the National Regional Rural Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not granting sanction for the opening of such banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) After considering a number of alternative models for restructuring of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), including setting up of a National Rural Bank of India (NRBI), it was decided to revamp the RRBs by cleansing of their balance sheets on a "Stand Alone" basis. Accordingly, 151 out of 196 RRBs have been taken up during the period 1994-98, for comprehensive restructuring including cleansing up of their balance sheets and infusion of fresh capital. An amount of Rs. 774 crores has been provided by the Central Government for this purpose as budgetary support. The objective of this exercise has been to transform the presently weak and ailing RRBs into financially viable and effective instruments of decentralised rural banking.

Vigilance Cell for Income Tax Department

2740. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJIHAR PUR) :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that any Vigilance Cell has been set up in order to clear up the Income Tax Department under the direction of former Prime Minister as reported in the *Economic Times* dated January 28, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of its finding alongwith the number of corrupt officers identified by the Vigilance Cell so far; and

(c) the action taken or proposed by the Government against such corrupt officers of the Income Tax Department?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Private Sector Banks

2741. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector banks have improved their position in the matter of providing loans as compared to the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the comparative details of the last two years; and

(c) the reasons for relatively poor performance of nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The comparative position of loans of nationalised banks and private sector banks as on 31.3.1997 and 27.3.1998 is furnished below. The data furnished for the year 1997 is based on the Balance Sheet submitted by the scheduled commercial banks whereas data furnished on 27.3.1998 is based on the form is submitted by scheduled commercial banks.

(Rupees in crores)

	31.3.97	Increase	27.3.98	Increase
Nationalised Banks	137389	+7975 6.16%	158085	+20696 15.06%
Private Sector Banks	30406	+6806 28.83%	33791	+3385 11.13%

Statement-I

Details of Income/Expenditure—Fairs Held in India during 1992-93 to 1997-98

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name/Dates of the Fair	Details of countries Participated	Income	Direct Expenditure	Sur./Def.(-)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1992-93					
1.	Consumexh May 2-10, 1992	-	21.98	18.34	3.64
2.	Sajavat Aug. 1-9, 1992	-	17.95	12.73	5.22

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Trade Fairs

2742. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the National & International Trade Fairs organised, sponsored and hosted by the India Trade Promotion Organisation during 1992-98;

(b) the names of the countries participated in each Trade Fair;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the establishment and maintenance on each Trade Fair;

(d) the amount earned through each Trade Fair;

(e) whether the Government propose to organise/ sponsor some trade fairs in India in the near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) The details regarding national and international trade fairs undertaken by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) during the period 1992-98 are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(e) and (f) ITPO and FICCI will jointly organise a G-77 & China Trade Fair and Business Summit in November, 1998 coinciding with IITF' 98 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi at the specific behest of the Govt. In addition to this the list of proposed fairs/exhibitions to be organised by the ITPO in India during 1998-99. (July-March) is given in the enclosed Statement-III.