

Disinvestment of PSU

4461. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to disinvest in loss making PSUs;

(b) if so, the extent to which shareholdings of the Government in such undertakings is likely to reduce; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the workers who are likely to suffer by such an action of disinvestment and change of management ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) There is no proposal to disinvest the Government holdings specifically in loss making PSUs. The Government of India is disinvesting its holding regularly since 1991-92 from various public sector enterprises. At present, the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission forms the basis of the disinvestment programme of the Government.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The interests of workers are always protected whenever the disinvestment from any public sector enterprise is undertaken.

In the Budget Speech for 1998-99 several concessions for workers, who face possible retrenchment, have been announced.

World Bank Loan

4462. SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER :
SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ADITYANATH :
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has clearly stated that the sanctions of US and various other countries have no effect on the World Bank's assistance to India;

(b) if so, whether such decision of World Bank is likely to help in implementing the ongoing projects in various States;

(c) if so, whether the World Bank loan to India is expected to peak up record level in the fiscal year 1998;

(d) whether the loan sanctioned by the World Bank during July 1996 to June 1998 had also made a record;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which loans sanctioned by the World Bank during 1998-99 is likely to be more than in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The World Bank have stated that the projects already approved by the World Bank would continue to be implemented so long as they are managed effectively and project conditions are met to.

(c) to (e) Total new commitment during the last four years are as under :

(in US \$ million)

July 94-June 95-2064

July 95-June 96-2078

July 96-June 97-1530

July 97-June 98-2142

(f) It is difficult to assess at this stage the extent by which loans sanctioned by the World Bank during 1998-99 are likely to be more than in 1997-98.

Export of Handicrafts

4463. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Export Promotion Corporation for handicrafts has observed that the major contribution in the export of handicrafts is from Northern and Central India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are correcting this regional imbalance in the export of handicrafts;

(d) whether the Government propose to strengthen its regional activities by opening of new branch offices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has observed that major export of handicrafts is from Northern and Central India particularly from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Union Territory of Delhi.

(c) to (e) To safeguard the interest of all Regions and to correct the regional imbalances in the export of handicrafts, the Office of Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Government of India, has set up six Regional Offices at New Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Guwahati and to provide design inputs to the artisans and exporters of handicrafts, five Regional Design and Technical Development Centres are functioning at Mumbai, Guwahati, Bangalore, Bhopal and New Delhi. Besides, 47 Handicrafts and marketing Service Extension Centres are also functioning in various part of the country to render marketing related assistance.