

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Standing Committee on Energy has already recommended.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : All right. They have also recommended it. All wise persons think alike.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : So do you believe that Lalaji belongs to the same category as you?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I consider Lalaji to be a very intelligent person. He has given very good suggestions.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I was not that intelligent earlier. Now I have learnt from people.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : That is why Rabri Devi has been made the Chief Minister of Bihar.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : He has also stated that he is guiding me. I have been working under his guidance and will do so in future as well. Though I won't give Chiefministership to my wife. . . . (*Interruptions*) I would like to submit that this is our policy and we have taken several measures to implement this policy. One of the measures relates to the amount owed by State Electricity Boards to the N.T.P.C. and Coal India, it is proposed to utilise the amount of ten thousand crore rupees and borrow from the market in order to enable these undertakings to set up such projects at the earliest. He has also mentioned that the mines in Jharia, Raniganj and Dhanbad are smouldering. So far as I can remember, this issue was discussed in detail by the Minister of State of the Ministry of coal in this House. This matter is related to the Ministry of Coal. Lalaji is well aware of what is going on there. Concern has been expressed in this regard. The steps that are required to be taken, are being taken. The methane is being consumed by fire not from today, this process has been going on not for the last three months but for years rather decades. It is important to control the fire and the present Government will take necessary steps in this regard.

[English]**I.T. Exemption to Voluntary Organisations**

*344. SHRI C. GOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organisations which got the Income Tax exemption through the National Committee for Promotion of Social and Economic Welfare during 1997-98;

(b) the State wise details thereof;

(c) the mechanism adopted by the Government to review the utilisation of funds by such organisations;

(d) whether any official from the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry is associated with the National Committee for Promtion of Social and Economic Welfare for the selection of voluntary organisations; and

(e) if so the details thereof?

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) The number of voluntary organisations approved by the Central Government on the recommendations of the National Committee for Promotion of Social and Economic Welfare during the financial year 1997-98 is 100.

(b) The State wise details thereof are as under :

States	Number
Assam	2
Andhra Pradesh	5
Bihar	1
Chandigarh	1
Delhi	4
Gujarat	30
Kerala	1
Karnataka	7
Manipur	3
Madhya Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	26
Nagaland	2
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	7
Uttar Pradesh	2
West Bengal	6
	100

(c) The approved institutions are required to maintain separate audited accounts in respect of approved projects and furnish status report every six months to the National Committee. The officials of the Secretariat also undertake on the spot verification in random cases.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI C. GOPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the year 1997-98, there were 100 voluntary organisations who have got the approval of the Central Government based on the recommendations of the National Committee for Promotion of Social and Economic Welfare. The hon. Minister has given a detailed Statewise statement. We find that in Gujarat, there are 30 voluntary organisations and in Maharashtra, there are 26 voluntary organisations. In other States, there are very few voluntary organisations which have got this approval, and in some other States there is none. These voluntary organisations are rendering service for the poor people, particularly, for those people who are below the poverty line. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether these organisations have been started on the recommendations of the National Committee. I would also like to know what is the National Committee, how it is appointed, how many Members are there, and whether there is a Chairman.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Sir, this Committee is appointed by the Central Government through the Finance Minister. This Committee comprises of 14 Members. They are appointed by the Central Government from amongst persons of eminence in public life and this Committee is headed by Justice Shri R.S. Pathak, former Chief Justice of India. If you want, I can read out the names of other Members also.

MR. SPEAKER : No; it is not necessary.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : As far as the question as to why the number of voluntary organisations is more in Gujarat and Maharashtra is concerned, there is more money in Gujarat and Maharashtra. There are more tax payers and more volunteers who offer money. But the other States are poor. That is the answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gopal, please keep in mind that this question relates to income tax exemption to voluntary organisations.

SHRI C. GOPAL : Yes, Sir.

Sir, people have come voluntarily, and they are running these institutions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much amount these 100 voluntary organisations have deposited and how much exemption is given by way of income tax.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Sir, the total cost of the projects is Rs. 1,94,495 crore. Till 31st March, 1998, the amount of donations received was Rs. 172 crore.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to know from Hon. Minister the names of such states which have been left out in the year 1997-98 and whose

applications have been turned down besides the names of the states he has already mentioned as having 100 such organisations which have been given exemption in income tax in the year 1997-98?

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Sir, I need a separate notice for this. But the number recommended by the committee is 578.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Sir, the hon. Minister has given a list of 100 organisations mentioning the names of many States. But I wanted to know from the hon. Minister that how many other States were left out and why they were not considered.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, in 1997-98, we received a total of 166 applications, out of which, the National Committee recommended 116 applications to the Ministry of Finance for sanction and a certain amount of money involved in that, was sanctioned. So, the number of applications which were not recommended was 50.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister about the services being rendered by the voluntary organisations receiving grant from the concerned committee. I think that the Ministry of Finance would surely have the relevant information. The people involved in 'save the childhood' movement in my parliamentary constituency Mirzapur Bhadohi are making false propaganda in other countries to destroy the carpet industry. They take grants from the Finance Ministry and also from other countries by constituting voluntary organisation in the name of 'save the childhood' movement . . . (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am stating the facts. This question is related to it. I would like to know from the government as to how much money is received by this voluntary organisation from other countries and whether the grant they get from our country is utilized properly or not?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have full information in this regard. I would like to submit through you that the Government does not provide any grant under this scheme. There are many charitable trusts and other organisations including public sector undertakings which want to do social service. They use their own money or the money offered by others for social welfare programmes. The provision under the Income Tax Act is that the money used in such type of activities is exempted from income tax. Just now, the Minister of State has given you the relevant data. A committee comprising of many eminent persons and headed by the former Chief Justice of India has been constituted.

12.00 hrs.

The objective of this committee is to scrutinise the validity of the voluntary organisations so that exemption is not given to any fake organisation. The recommendations made by this committee are considered by the Finance Ministry and a decision is taken thereafter. Hence the chances of misutilisation of the funds are negligible.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked about the money received by them from other countries. Moreover, whether the government is aware that these voluntary organisations are being run by the relatives of the members of the committee.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Very stringent laws have been framed regarding the members of this committee. As far as foreign money is concerned, we all know that separate laws have been framed in this regard. The Ministry of Home Affairs keeps an eye on all those voluntary organisation which are using foreign money for their activities.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : What do you have to say about collective responsibility?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am not denying collective responsibility. I am saying that the Ministry of Home Affairs keeps a watch over it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Modernisation of Textile Industry

*345. **SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :**

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether textile industry is facing problem because of outdated technologies;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has affected the overall functioning of the textile industry and its impact on the export of Indian textiles;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide financial assistance to the textile mills for modernisation;

(d) if so, the name of agencies who provide the loans; and

(e) whether there is any plan under consideration of the Government to declare Kathua as textile city in J & K?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While the spinning sector has, by and large, taken steps to modernise itself, the

weaving and processing sectors lag behind technologically. Composite mills have not been performing well. The weaving sector and processing & finishing sectors suffer from lack of modernisation. While it is difficult to quantify the impact of lack of technological upgradation on the export of Indian textiles, it is a fact that India has not been able to increase its share in the global market for textiles and clothing beyond 3% in recent years.

(c) and (d) A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the textile industry. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive. It is proposed to make available loans with interest incentive to identified sectors of the textile industry. Eligible units would be able to avail of such credit from All India Financial Institutions and Commercial Banks. Details of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme in this regard for the textiles and jute industries are being worked out.

(e) No such plan is under the consideration with the Ministry of Textiles.

Financial Assistance for Development of Tourism

*346. **SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/projects submitted by the Eastern and North-Eastern States, particularly by the Orissa Government for financial assistance for development of tourist spots, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) the details of assistance extended, project-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Orissa seeking Japanese aid for development of tourism infrastructure in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) :

(a) The projects prioritised in consultation with State Governments and sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for the development of tourism in Eastern and North Eastern States during 1997-98 are as given below :

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State	No. of projects Prioritised	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	14	12	288.88
2.	Arunachal Pr.	9	9	271.00