

Payment to Workers of BCCL

2434. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether BCCL is taking work from some employees for the last several months without making payment to them; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof giving the number of such employees working without payment for more than six months as on January 1, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

[Translation]

Amount Due against NTC

2435. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of rupees 138 crore of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board is due against the cotton textile mills being run by National Textile Corporation; and

(b) if so, whether the MPEB has requested the Union Government to direct the National Textile Corporation to clear the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) As on 30.4.98 an amount of Rs. 25.90 crores is payable by mills under NTC (MP) Ltd. to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board on account of electricity dues.

(b) No, Sir.

[English]

Decentralisation of FDI Clearance

2436. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to empower the States for clearing Foreign Direct investment upto 1500 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any disagreement between his Ministry and Ministry of Power over the issue of empowerment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) A decision has been taken to allow automatic approval for foreign equity upto 100% for undertaking generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy produced in hydro-electric power plants and

coal/lignite/oil/gas based thermal power plants subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1500 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Exploitation of Powerloom Workers

2437. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of acute economic exploitation and miserable conditions of powerloom workers in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to stop such exploitation;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct an enquiry into the condition of such workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring out a comprehensive Central legislation to regulate the Powerloom industry and improve the conditions of powerloom workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No specific case of acute economic exploitation and miserable conditions of powerloom workers in the country has come to the notice of this Ministry and its Subordinate offices.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) If specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government, it will examine the need for and feasibility of ameliorating the same by suitable means.

Purchase of Cotton by CCI

2438. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to purchase cotton from farmers during the current cotton season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Cotton Corporation of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) purchases cotton in all the cotton growing states except Maharashtra of its own. However at times, Government gives directions to CCI to make aggressive purchases in problem areas. As of 9th June, 1998 the CCI had purchased 7,95,011 bales of cotton in the current cotton year.