

tical and agricultural chemical products can be filed with effect from 1st January, 1995 and provision of exclusive marketing rights after a product meets prescribed conditions.

In the meeting of the DSB held on 13th February, 1998, India announced its intention of implementing the rulings and recommendations of the DSB within a suitable time frame. After a series of bilateral discussions with United States of America, India has agreed to discharge its transitional obligations under Articles 70.8 and 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement by 19th April, 1999. This is a provision that relates to possible grant of intellectual property rights and it is difficult to estimate its impact on trade, as it would depend on various factors like competitiveness of like products manufactured in India, availability of cheaper substitutes, levels of tariffs maintained and price control exercised by the appropriate authority within India.

In case India does not discharge its obligation within the agreed time frame, compensation and the suspension of concessions or other obligations as provided in the WTO Agreement could be resorted to by a member who has initiated the dispute settlement procedure.

[Translation]

#### Assessment of Excise Duty

\*249. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:  
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of cases of provisional assessment of excise/customs duties have been pending finalisation for the last 2-3 years while some have been pending for over 10 years;

(b) if so, the amount involved therein;

(c) the reasons for delay in finalising the cases; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for quick disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) As on 31.12.97, 590 cases of provisional assessment of central excise duties and 7389 cases of customs duties were pending finalisation for the last 2-3 years.

(b) The amount involved in Central Excise cases was Rs. 1412.19 crores. The figures relating to amount involved in customs cases are being collected from field formations and would be laid on the table of the House.

(c) In respect of Central Excise, a large number of cases relating to classification and valuation issues are pending in the Tribunal and the courts. Certain clearances to projects are also assessed provisionally and the projects have taken very long time for completion. Some information is also awaited from the assesses. A few cases are subject to enquiry by the Department. In respect of customs, cases are pending for want of proper licence, test reports, technical literature.

(d) For quick disposal of provisional assessment cases, Commissioners of Central Excise & Customs have been monitoring the case on monthly basis and instructions have been issued to finalise the cases within 6 months. Bunching of pending court cases issue-wise for one time disposal and filing of early hearing petition before Court and Tribunal are being made. Adjudication of the cases is being expedited by posting of more commissioners for adjudication, creation of more commissionerates, reorganising the work in chemical laboratories. Steps have also been taken to reduce points of disputes viz. simplification and rationalisation of tariff structure, reduction in end-use based exemptions. A valuation Directorate has been set up in the Customs side.

#### Committee on Washeries

\*250. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to review the performance of the Coal Washeries under the Central Coal Washery Organisation;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee and its terms of reference;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) An Expert Committee was constituted by Government in August, 1985 to examine the working of ten existing washeries including four washeries of erstwhile Central Coal Washeries Organisation (CCWO). Another Technical Group constituted by Government in November, 1992 for preparing an action plan to reduce dependence on cooking coal imports. This Committee also studied the working of existing washeries (including CCWO washeries) and submitted its report in May, 1993.

(b) and (c) The Expert Committee constituted in 1985 consisted of:

1. Dr. V.A. Altekar Former Director National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML)  
—Chairman
2. Shri P.R. Sinha Adviser (Projects), Deptt. of Coal  
—Member
3. Shri B. Sharan CGM (Washeries), CCL, Ranchi
4. Shri D.B. Agarwal CCSO, SAIL, Dhanbad—Member
5. Shri C. Ghosh ACE(CP), BCCL, Dhanbad  
—Member
6. Dr. R.N. Singh Regional Director(HQ), CMPDI  
—Member Secretary

The terms of reference of the Committee were to suggest steps and formulate a programme to ensure supply of washed coking coal with 17 +/- 0.5% ash content to the steel plants. The Committee submitted its report in October, 1986.

(d) The main recommendations of the Expert Committee consisted of provision of (i) deshaling plants to improve the quality of raw coal feed (ii) fine coal beneficiation circuits to improve the yield of clean coal and (iii) automation of washeries for increasing the operational efficiencies.

(e) The recommendations consisted of both short term as well as long term nature. All the recommendations both short term and long term have since been implemented excepting completion of construction of deshaling plants in Dugda-II and Sudamdih washeries of BCCL.

#### Coal Stocks in Power Plants

\*251. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to low production of coal and loading problems prevailing in this sector, the coal stock available in various thermal power plants in the country is likely to last for a few days only;

(b) if so, the present position of coal stock in these thermal power plants; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that due to low production of coal and loading problems, the power houses are having inadequate stocks. During the year 1997-98, coal production has registered a growth of 3.6% over the last year. Similarly loading of coal by rail to power sector has also registered significant growth. As

a result, the power houses in the country are having stocks equivalent to 24 days consumption as on 28.5.98.

(b) The total coal stocks with power houses in the country as reported by Central Electricity Authority for the last three years are as follows:

Stock as on	Quantity (In .000 tonnes)
01.4.96	5,314
01.4.97	10,386
01.4.98	17,016
28.5.98	14,925

(c) Coal companies are fully geared up to supply the linked quantity of coal to all power houses in the country and close coordination is maintained to ensure supply of coal to them. Coal supplies to power houses are also reviewed regularly by an Inter-ministerial Committee and appropriate action is taken to step up coal supplies, wherever, necessary.

In fact many of the power houses have restricted their supplies throughout the year 1997-98 and asked for suspension of supplies during April, 1998 for want of space for their coal stock.

[English]

#### Gap between Demand and Supply of Coal

\*252. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production targets set and achieved against the demand and supply of coal during each of the last three years, State-wise/Company-wise;

(b) the percentage gap between demand and supply of coal during the above period.

(c) the projected demand for the current year and revised target set;

(d) the details of new initiatives taken/under consideration to ensure that the financial performance of coal companies does not get affected due to inadequate demand support for additional coal production resulting in serious stock piling; and

(e) the stock position of coal of various coal companies, as on March 31, 1998 and the extent to which it is above or below the normal limits and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The production targets and actuals during the last three years are given below: