

(d) While the sale of coal by captive coal mines to State Electricity Board in certain situations would reduce the risk for coal mining, the extent to which this will increase the investment in captive mines is not possible to determine.

Income Tax and Wealth Tax

2616. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of film artists, producers, directors against whom income tax/wealth tax demand exceeding Rs. 50,000 remained outstanding as on 1.4.1998;

(b) the amount outstanding against each person; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to collect the dues immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loss in N.T.C.

2617. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been formulated to bring the loss of National Textile Corporation at minimum level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to release any special package in the interest of their labourers; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Production activities in NTC group companies have had to be curtailed due to non-viability of their operations and lack of working capital. The increase in losses for the present is mainly due to increase in salary/wage bill and interest charges. NTC management have been advised to exercise economy in its expenditure and minimize the losses.

(c) and (d) Govt. is considering a revised package for the NTC Mills based on the BIFR norm of networth turning positive within the stipulated period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[English]

Export of Iron Ore

2618. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export of Iron Ore during 1996-97 was much higher as compared to earlier years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last seven years;

(c) the figures for the year 1997-98 and the projections for 1998-99 thereof; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned through export of Iron Ore during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Export of Iron Ore during the last 7 years as per DGCI&S statement are as under:

Years	US \$ mn
1990-91	584.63
1991-92	586.49
1992-93	360.24
1993-94	437.95
1994-95	413.14
1995-96	514.55
1996-97	483.49

(c) and (d) Exports during 1997-98 are US \$ 474.4 million.

Projections for 1998-99 are US \$ 569.3 million (tentative).

Transfers in Income Tax Department

2619. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:
DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Income Tax officials have been transferred recently affecting the ongoing investigations against a number of politicians; and

(b) if so, the details and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Textiles to U.S.A.

2620. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI K.P. NAIDU:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI MAGANTI BABU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.A. has initiated moves to strip India of 'Most Favoured Nation' status by slapping trade restrictions in the export of textiles from India after India's nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the defensive measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the value of textiles is exported to America annually;

(d) the extent of textile trade likely to be affected in case the America imposes restrictive customs duty; and

(e) the details of the share of India in regard to export of textiles to America?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (e) The U.S. Government have not initiated any move to strip India of 'Most Favoured Nation' status by slapping trade restrictions in the export of textiles from India.

The export of textiles and clothing to the U.S.A. during 1997 amounted to Rs. 7,700/- crores (approximately).

In the total textiles and garment products imported by the U.S.A., the share of India is about 3.7%, at present.

Coir Board

2621. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coir Board has agreed to provide a sum of Rs. 50 lakh to the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not releasing the amount; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for immediate release of the fund?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir. Government have so far not decided to give any grant to the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund this year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Coir Board had evaluated the performance of the Kerala Coir Workers' Welfare Fund. The evaluation report has pointed out many irregularities which have been brought to the notice of the Kerala Coir Workers' Welfare Fund Board by the Coir Board. The Coir Board had suggested to the Kerala Coir Workers' Welfare Fund Board to maintain proper accounts for the disbursement of pension etc. This matter has also been considered by the Government and it is felt that it would not be possible for the Government to release any grant to the Kerala Coir Workers' Welfare Fund Board unless remedial steps are taken by them for improving the operations of the Fund as advised by the Coir Board. State Governments has also been requested to initiate necessary action in the matter. The Coir Board has also been advised to take follow up steps with the Welfare Fund Board.

Complaints against JVG

2622. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
DR. PRABHA THAKUR :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE :
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date since when the Group of Companies named "JVG" registered with the RBI alongwith its aims;

(b) the locations of the branches, opened by the JVG in the Country indicating the amount collected by these branches from the investors since their inception in each state;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints regarding non payment of refund to the investors by JVG and its branches and closing of such branches leaving the investors in high and dry;

(d) if so, the details of complaints received during 1997-98 till date, state-wise;

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against JVG and to ensure the payment of refund to the investors;

(f) whether the RBI has imposed any ban on the functioning of JVG and its branches;