

certain schemes to promote and build export success for small and tiny industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance/facilities provided to these industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) While STC does not operate any specific scheme to promote and build export sector for small & tiny industries, MMTC in the area of minerals & ores, has formulated the following schemes to promote production and export:-

- mine owners are provided production and development incentives apart from basic price for the product. Under production incentive scheme, mine owners are encouraged to produce more and earn incentive on the entire quantity in case supply exceeds the base level which are revised from year to year based on the past performance.
- mine owners are also given incentives in relation to the quantity supplied under the "development incentive scheme" to encourage them in scientific development of their mines.
- MMTC also pays afforestation charges to the mine owners for plantation of tree and plants to maintain proper ecological balance in the mining areas.
- In order to ensure that mine owners' interests in export continues and they become globally competitive in the long run, the advantage of

exchange benefit is also shared with them from time to time.

- Wherever possible, MMTC encourage mine owners to supply material directly at the port so that they can avail the benefit of 80 HHC under the Income-tax Act for the local transportation element as well.
- MMTC also strives to provide export outlet and facilitate export of material surplus to domestic demand from mine owners who otherwise have no access to the global market or where withal to organise logistic support and arrange export independently.
- MMTC generate orders, help them in executing those order by providing assistance in preparation of documents, shipping arrangements and extending packing credit facilities etc.

Assistance by ADB for Development of Ports

2501. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Asian Development Bank is providing funds for the development of various ports in the Country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the projects being financed by the Asian Development Bank, Port-wise; and

(c) the details of Progress achieved so far?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The details of the existing projects approved by ADB for assistance for Development of Ports in India are as follows:

Name of Project	Brief Project Components	Amount of assistance US\$	Date of approval	Date of Closing	Loan utilisation US\$
1	2	3	4	5	6
Coal Ports Project	Coal Handling Plant & Wharfs in Paradip Port & Dev. of Ennore Port.	285 million	27 Oct. 1992	30 May 2000	60.632 million
Mumbai Port Project	Replacement of submarine pipelines, modernisation of oil berths.	\$97.8 million	29 Sep. 1997	30 Sep. 2003	nil
Chennai Port Project	Rehabilitation of the existing berths.	\$15.2 million	29 Sep. 1997	30 March 2003	nil

Visit of Italian Trade Team to India

2502. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Italian trade team visited India during 1997;

(b) if so, the purpose of their visits;

(c) whether Italian trade team proposed to set up joint venture projects in India;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals submitted by the trade team; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, since Italian Prime Minister's official visit to India in April, 1997 had been postponed, a 5-member delegation of Italian businessmen industrialists headed by the Coordinator, Asia-Oceanic Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid a visit to India from April 20-24, 1997 and had meetings with the Director General of CII in New Delhi. It is understood that the businessmen had meetings with Indian companies but no Joint Ventures/cooperation projects were concluded.

Economic Package for Uttar Pradesh

2503. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any latest survey in various parts of the country to study the regional economic disparity of a particular region;

(b) if so, the position of eastern Uttar Pradesh in comparison to other parts of the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the above region is economically backward and the Government is formulating any special scheme to extend any economic package to the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission allocates funds to the State for its overall development. The Government attaches high priority to development of backward areas and disadvantaged sections of Society and instructions to this effect have been given to State Government from time to time. However, the development of different regions within the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. As development requirement of Eastern Uttar Pradesh can be met within Development Plan of the State, it is not considered necessary for the Union Government to form a Special Package for Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Visit India Year

2504. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced its new tourism policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the idea of the Government behind the proposal of "Visit India Year";

(d) whether the Government propose to develop the pilgrimages as the tourist spots to promote tourism industry; and

(e) if so, the details of the scheme prepared by the Government of Varanasi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The objective of the proposal is to give focus and wider publicity to the Indian tourism product in the overseas markets and to attract more tourists.

(d) Yes, Sir. Pilgrim Centers with tourism potential are identified for development.

(e) The Ministry of Tourism has provided assistance to the State Government for the implementation of the following projects at Varanasi during last five years:

	Amount Sanctioned
1. Public conveniences at Varanasi	6.72
2. Flood lighting of Varanasi Ghats	16.50

MSCCF's against NTC

2505. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some amount of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation is outstanding against the National Textile Corporation (NTC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-payment of this amount;

(d) whether the Government of Maharashtra have made for several requests to the Union Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(f) the time by which this amount is likely to be paid to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation?

The MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 136.72 crores is outstanding against NTC towards cotton dues to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation as on 31.3.1998.