

(b) whether a number of representations have been made to the Government for shifting of Salt Commissioner Office from Calcutta to Ahmedabad;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be shifted to Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There had been a persistent demand from the Salt Manufacturers' Associations of Gujarat as well as the state Government of Gujarat for shifting the Salt Commissioner's Office from Jaipur to a suitable location in Gujarat on the ground that Gujarat contributes about 70% of the total salt production in the country. After careful consideration of the matter, orders were issued by the Government in 1994 to shift the Salt Commissioner's Office from Jaipur to Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat). However, the All India Salt Department Employees' Union filed a writ petition in the Rajasthan High Court at Jaipur against the orders of the Government. While admitting the writ petition, High Court stayed the operation of Government's orders. The matter is still pending before the High Court and is, therefore, sub-judice.

[Translation]

Opening of Coal Mines in Maharashtra

2547. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by the Government to consider the pending proposals regarding opening of coal mines in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of coal mines likely to be opened in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) There is at present no proposal regarding investment in new coal mines in the State of Maharashtra pending for Government sanction.

(b) 13 new coal mines are proposed to be taken up in the State of Maharashtra during IXth Plan Period.

(c) Of the above 13 new coal projects, one project has been approved and is under implementation; project reports for 8 projects have been formulated and are at various stages of consideration for approval. Four project reports are under formulation / to be formulated.

CDR of Banks in Bihar

2548. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of the banks in the country alongwith the banks located in Bihar;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to bring the C.D.R. of banks in Bihar at par with the national average in view of the lowest C.D.R. of the banks in the State

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) State/Union Territory-wise Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of scheduled commercial banks, as on the last Friday of March 1997 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India had constituted a Task Force to look into the reasons for low CDR in Bihar and suggest remedial measures for its improvement. The Task Force has made a number of recommendations. Action on the recommendations is an on going process and the progress in this regard is monitored by the State Level Bankers' Committee.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State wise Credit Deposit Ratios of All Scheduled Commercial Banks as on the Last Friday of March, 1997

STATE/UNION TERRITORY	C/D RATIO (Per Cent)
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	77.6
2. Arunachal Pradesh	10.7
3. Assam	35.2
4. Bihar	30.5
5. Goa	25.0
6. Gujarat	49.7
7. Haryana	42.7
8. Himachal Pradesh	23.4
9. Jammu & Kashmir	38.8

1	2
10. Karnataka	71.5
11. Kerala	46.9
12. Madhya Pradesh	52.3
13. Maharashtra	68.7
14. Manipur	57.6
15. Meghalaya	14.3
16. Mizoram	14.0
17. Nagaland	24.0
18. National Capital Territory of Delhi	66.9
19. Orissa	49.0
20. Punjab	39.1
21. Rajasthan	44.2
22. Sikkim	17.7
23. Tamil Nadu	100.3
24. Tripura	37.8
25. Uttar Pradesh	31.6
26. West Bengal	50.0
27. Andaman & Nicobar Island	16.0
28. Chandigarh	88.0
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	18.6
30. Daman & Diu	21.8
31. Lakshadweep	8.8
32. Pondicherry	39.0
ALL-INDIA	57.3

Price Index

2549. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of items whose costs are taken into account while determining the rate of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index, separately;

(b) whether any steps had been taken by the Government to improve the said Index during the past years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The wholesale price index (WPI) with base 1981-82 monitors on a weekly basis movement in the wholesale prices of 447 traded goods, of which 90 belong to the primary products sector, 20 to fuel, power sector

and 337 items to manufactured sector. Amongst the consumer Price indices, the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, CIP (IW) is the most commonly used index. It monitors on monthly basis the retail price movement of 260 commodities which include groups such as (1) food; (2) pan, supari, tobacco and intoxicants; (3) housing; (4) fuel and light; (5) clothing, bedding and footwear; and (6) a number of services grouped as miscellaneous.

(b) and (c) An Expert Group has been set up by the Government in July, 1993 for the revision of the current series of WPI and to recommend a new base year and also take a fresh look at the basket of commodities that should be included in the WPI. The report of the Expert Group is awaited.

[English]

Reimbursement of Medical Expenses

2550. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount is being spent on the reimbursement of medical expenses by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries, particularly in W.C.L. to its employees;

(b) if so, estimated amount spent on this account annually;

(c) whether any verification has been made to ascertain the actual spending such money by the employees; and

(d) if so, the criteria adopted for verification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) While the audited figures for reimbursement of medical expenses to employees of CIL and its subsidiaries for the year 1997-98 are not yet available, the figures for 1995-96 and 1996-97 subsidiary-wise including WCL are as under:-

COMPANY	(RUPEES IN CRORES)	
	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3
ECL	4.41	4.86
BCCL	3.99	5.14
CCL	3.58	3.54
NCL	1.22	1.19
WCL	2.78	3.78
SECL	3.40	4.46
MCL	0.87	1.04
CMPDIL	1.16	1.17