

(c) the number of machines out of these purchased from abroad;

(d) the number of machines out of them are lying unused;

(e) the capital blocked in unused machines as on March 31, 1998; and

(f) the size of the coal in terms of thickness than can be cut from these machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) There was no purchase of machinery by BCCL in the last three years for Amlabad and Munidih projects.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) on the question.

National Institute for Fashion Technology

1549. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of branches of National Institute of Fashion Technology set up so far State-wise;

(b) whether any request for setting up any National Institute of Fashion Technology is pending with this Ministry;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government of Kerala have also sought for setting up of branches of this Institute in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) In addition to its centre at New Delhi, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has set up 6 centres at Mumbai, Chennai, Gandhinagar, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

(b) to (e) There have been requests from State Governments of J & K, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Goa for setting up of centres of NIFT in their States, which are under examination.

DPCs of JCI

1550. SHRI MO'NUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down 43 Departmental Purchase Centres (DPCs) of the Jute Corporation of India in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to redeploy over 400 employees working in these centres?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government have recently decided to close down 43 uneconomic Departmental Purchase Centres of JCI after an analysis done of the procurement made by all the purchase centre of JCI for over a decade where it was seen that the procurement by 43 Centres have remained consistently well below the desired level both under Price Support Operation and Commercial Operations.

(c) the action initiated to redeploy around 200 regular employees posted in these purchase centres suitably is in progress.

Performance of HMT, Hyderabad

1551. SHRI M. RAJAI AH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present financial status of Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. at Hyderabad;

(b) whether HMT is facing major problems at present;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) HMT Lt.d. has three major units at Hyderabad: viz Machine Tools Unit, Press Unit and Lamp Unit. The Machine Tool Unit and the Press Unit have made marginal profits in the last year. The Lamp Unit has been perennially loss making unit since inception.

(b) and (c) Yes, HMT has been facing problems on account of surplus manpower, high interest burden, working capital constraints, and obsolete technology in certain units.

(d) The performance of HMT is regularly monitored and reviewed by the Government.

Resin Industry

1552. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI ANNASABEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic Resin, Turpentine and Camphor Industry is facing crisis due to acute shortage of basic raw material (forest based) and imported raw material is available at inflated prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of units closed as a result thereof;

(d) whether any representation has been received from Members of Parliament and industrialists in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) The indigenous production of Oleo Pine Resin, the basic raw material for Rosin, Turpentine and Camphor falls short of the demand. However, the shortfall is being met through imports of Oleo Pine Resin at 10% custom duty. The import duty on Resin, Turpentine and Camphor has been kept at 30% for protecting the interests of domestic industries producing these items.

(d) to (f) Representations from Members of Parliament and Chamber of Indian Trade & Industry have been received requesting for abolition of custom duty on Oleo Fine Resin. Accordingly, the import duty on Oleo Pine Resin has since been brought down to the level of 10%.

Jalan Committee Report

1553. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received Jalan Committee report on the interest policy;

(b) if so, the details of main recommendation made by the Committee and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI

KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Neither Government nor Reserve Bank of India are aware of any Committee known as the Jalan Committee on interest policy.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Concession to Boost Export of Agriculture Based Products

1554. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of concessions have been announced under the new EXIM policy to boost the export of agriculture based products;

(b) if so, whether 100 items out of 340 items announced under this policy are agriculture based products; and

(c) if so, the details of these products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The threshold limit for Agriculture and Allied Sectors under zero duty EPOG Scheme has been brought down from Rs. 5 Crores to Rs. 1 Crore. At the same time in the Agriculture and Allied Sectors, EOU/EPZ Units will be permitted on the basis of positives Net Foreign Exchange earning only. Accordingly, for this sector, the requirement of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning of 20% has been done away with.

(b) and (c) 51 items out of 340 items, which have been shifted from Restricted to Free list as part of this year's EXIM Policy announcement made on 13.04.98, would come in the category of agricultural products. The list of these 51 items is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

S.No.	Exim Code	List of items Description	Policy
1	2	3	4
1.	06031000	Fresh cut flowers and flower buds	Free
2.	06039000	Other	Free
3.	06041000	Mosses and lichens	Free