

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : The Government provides requisite marketing support by organising National Handloom Expos, District Level Fairs, Product Specific exhibitions and Craft Melas to enable the weavers to sell their products and liquidate their accumulated stocks. In order to assist weavers in securing yarn, the Government has been implementing the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and Mill Gate Price Scheme.

Denationalisation of Khottadih Coal Mines

1501. **SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to denationalise Khottadih Coal Mines;

(b) if so, whether the Global Tender is likely to be floated soon in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to part (a) of this question.

Import Licencing Restrictions

1502. **SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed with the European Union and Australia regarding the import licencing restrictions on a variety of consumer goods; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Mutually satisfactory solutions have been reached on the phased removal of quantitative restrictions on import.

(b) During formal bilateral consultation held under the dispute settlement mechanism, India reached a mutually satisfactory solution each with Australia, Canada, the European Communities, New Zealand and Switzerland as well as with Japan which was a third party to the disputes for removal of all the residual import restrictions maintained for balance of payment purposes on agricultural, textile and industrial products including consumer goods within a 6-year time schedule starting 1 April, 1997, in three consecutive phases of 3 years, 2 years and one year, in a balanced manner.

Development of A & N Island

1503. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any plan for Tourism Development for Andaman and Nicobar Island;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether UNDP report has been released by the Administration; and

(d) if so, the salient feature of the report and the action contemplated thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) and (b) During the year 1997-98, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 60 lakhs for the implementation of Light and Sound Show at Cellular Jail in Andaman Island.

(c) and (d) The study report on "Development Strategy on Environmentally Sustainable Tourism in the Andamans" has been made available by the UNDP. The report has suggested a strategy for the development of five selected areas in the Andaman Islands. The action plan for the same includes institutional restructuring for plan implementation, relaxation or removal of institutional constraints, training, planning and designing of development zones and undertaking development programmes.

Fake Financial Companies/Banks

1504. **SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :**

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA :

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cases of cheating by the fake financial institutions/private banks/plantation companies and some other NBFCs with the investors in making repayment of investment are increasing day-by-day in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated number of such cases noticed by the Government during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government have any data about such fake financial institutions/private banks/plantation companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulters; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to verify the genuineness of such investment companies and to regulate their functioning with a view to saving the investors from being duped of their hard earned money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) Reserve Bank of India/Government have been receiving complaints from depositors, association of depositors and Members of Parliament that a number of the NBFIs have been delaying the repayment of public deposits and interest thereon.

(b) and (c) A Large number of complaints against NBFCs for non payment deposits/interest thereon are being received from time to time. Depositors are advised to file their claim with the Regional Office of Company Law Board where registered office of the NBFCs is situated under Company Law Board Regulation 1991 and Section 45QA of RBI Act, 1934. Thereafter the Company is required to appear before the Board to explain the reasons for non-refund of the deposit amount. Different schemes are approved by the Board for refund of the money. The Company is required to file an affidavit of compliance of CLB order to the concerned General Manager. Deptt. of Non Banking Supervision (DNBS), RBI. The power to prosecute NBFCs for non compliance of CLB's order have been given to RBI under Section 58B(4AAA) vide RBI Amendment Act 1997. Between January to December, 1997 RBI has issued prohibitory orders in respect of 28 defaulting NBFCs prohibiting them from accepting deposits for violation of the provisions of RBI Act and directed NBFCs not to alienate their assets. Similarly since January, 1998 prohibitory orders have been issued in respect of 3 defaulting NBFCs.

(d) and (e) With the amendment of RBI Act in 1997 more powers have been vested with the RBI. The amended Act inter-alia provides for :

- (i) Compulsory registration of NBFCs having Net Owned Fund of Rs. 25 lacs and more.
- (ii) Creation of Reserve Fund and transfer of at least 20% of the profits to the said Reserve Fund.

(iii) Authorising Company Law Board to direct a defaulting NBFC to repay deposits.

(iv) Vesting RBI with the following powers:

- (a) Giving directions to the NBFCs regarding prudential norms,
- (b) Giving directions to the NBFCs and their Auditors on matters relating to Balance sheets and cause Special Audit as also to impose penalty on erring Auditors.
- (c) Prohibiting NBFCs from accepting deposits for violation of the provisions of the RBI Act and direct NBFCs not to alienate their assets.
- (d) To file winding up petition against the erring NBFCs.
- (e) Impose penalty directly on the erring NBFCs etc.

[Translation]

Import of Coal

1505. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

SHRI ANANDA RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated quantity of Coal imported annually and the amount of foreign exchange incurred thereon;
- (b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to reduce the import of coal and explore the vast coal reserves in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Details of imports of coking and non-coking coal are as follows:-

	1995-96	1996-97 (Prov.)	1997-98
Quantity (in million tonnes)	12.51	14.41	Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
Value	US \$ 925.6 million	Rs. 3532 crores	

(b) and (c) The bulk of imported coal is coking coal required by steel plants. The domestic coking