

(c) the salient features of the recommendations made by the Vittal Committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The Committee for Review of Guidelines for Public Sector Enterprises (known as Vittal Committee) was constituted on 28th May, 1997 to review guidelines issued by erstwhile BPE and DPE for Public Sector Enterprises and to recommend cancellation, redrafting and/or simplification with the objective of eliminating or modifying guidelines which are no longer necessary or relevant. The Committee was desired to complete its work and to give recommendations within three months or earlier, if possible. The Committee submitted its report within the stipulated period on 20th August, 1997.

(c) The Committee, recommended to delete 762 guidelines, to modify 25 guidelines and to retain 105 guidelines.

(d) Government has examined the recommendations and decided to cancel 696 guidelines and to retain 196 guidelines.

[Translation]

Export of Soya Food

1627. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of Soya food products exported to China during each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of Soyafood products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) There have been no exports of soya food products to China during 1995-96 and 1996-97. However, during 1997-98, 33.44 MT of flours and meals of Soyabeans (ITC(HS) Code No. 12081000) valued at Rs. 4.83 lakhs (Provisional) have been exported to China.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to boost exports of processed foods including soya food products are providing financial assistance to exporters, growers, cooperative societies and food processing units for development of infrastructure facilities, setting up expansion/modernisation of food processing units, arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important International Fairs and Exhibitions,

assisting in development of data base dissemination of market information.

Use of Hindi

1628. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the setting up of modern device are causing obstacles is the use of Official Language in his Ministry;

(b) whether the Hindi speaking States are being compelled to prepare their budget and projects in English as most of the work in Secretariat is carried out in English only;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Chairman and members of Official Language Implementation Committee also do their original work in English only; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to ensure to promote the use of Official Language?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) All Officers and staff including the Chairman and members of the Official Language Implementation Committee who have a working knowledge of Hindi are constantly encouraged to do original work in Hindi. All persuasive means are employed to increase the use of Hindi in the day to day work.

[English]

Export of Fish and Its Products

1629. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned through the export of fish and its products during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the extent to which fish export from the State of Kerala has been affected due to the power shortage;

(c) whether fish/marine product consignments exported from India had been rejected/returned by any countries during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details with reasons and remedial steps taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The foreign exchange earned through the export of fish and fishery products during 1996-97 and 1997-98 has been Rs. 4121.36 crores (US \$ 1152.83 Million) and Rs. 4697.48 crores (US \$ 1295.86 Million) respectively.

(b) The Seafood exports from Kerala ports during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 have been 92288 Metric Ton valued at Rs. 936.22 crores (US \$ 261.88 Million) and 89366 Metric Ton valued at Rs. 943 crores (US \$ 261.53 Million) respectively. Whereas there is a slight decline of 3.17% in quantity and 0.13% in value of exports in dollar terms in 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97, there has been a slight increase of 1.26% in value of exports in rupee terms.

The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) and MPEDA have informed that their export of processed fishery products was affected to a certain extent as they became somewhat uncompetitive due to the higher expenditure that they had to incur on running the diesel generator sets to overcome the power shortage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the last two years (1996-97 & 1997-98), as per the available information, 40 fishery product export consignments belonging to Indian fishery product processing units, were rejected at the receiving ports in Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Belgium, United Kingdom and Denmark due to decomposition or defective grading or short weight or failure in bacteriological tests due to microbiological contamination or detection of one of the bacteria namely, Salmonella, Staphylococci, Vibrio, Parahaemolyticus, Coagulase positive Staphylococci, Paoccal Streptococci, Vibrio Cholerae and Vibrio Alginolyticus.

The fish products processing units whose consignment were rejected at the foreign ports were instructed to identify the causes of contamination and take effective steps to fully conform to the prescribed standards of food hygiene and safety. The inspection and monitoring of the fishery product processing units by the officials of Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) was also revamped and the frequency of monitoring of such units was increased so as to ensure that all the exporting units conformed to international standards of food hygiene and safety. The other remedial steps taken by the Government include training programmes for the concerned technical officials working in Export Inspection Council (EIC)/EIAs and MPEDA, circulation of comprehensive guidelines and instructions for the guidance and use of the inspecting officers and the fishery products processing units and

implementation of various subsidy schemes through MPEDA for helping the fishery product processing units to produce quality fish and fishery products for exports.

Short Supply of Coal

1630. **SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that almost all the States are suffering from short supply of coal;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ever assessed the requirement and supply of different quality of coal to each State;

(c) if so, the details thereof in regard to supply and demand of Coal of each State during the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to supply the desired quantity of different quality of Coal to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir. Power Sector is the bulk consumer of coal in the States. Adequate coal supplies had been ensured and as a result almost all thermal power stations in the country are having comfortable stocks. Coal India Limited have reported that they are not aware of reported shortage of coal in any of the States in the country during the year 1997-98.

(b) The requirements of coal are not assessed State-wise. They are assessed industry/sector-wise for the country as a whole. Coal India Limited (CIL) supplies coal to consumers based on the programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to power and cement industries are made based on short-term linkages established by Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) for these sectors.

(c) Total quantity of coal supplied to the States from CIL during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Coal Companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of all consumers in the country by increasing production of coal by opening new mines and augmenting production from the existing mines. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the liberalised Sales Scheme under which coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships.