

v)	Manipur	
vi)	Andhra Pradesh	} 50,000
vii)	Mizoram	
Total		4,50,000

(d) The Rubber Board has been assisting small growers to set up processing facilities by supplying rollers and other estate equipments at concessional rates, assisting construction of smoke houses by providing technical and financial assistance in addition to special assistance being given to tribal/SC groups for community processing. The Rubber Board also conducts Entrepreneur Development Programme and Training Classes and offers technical advice to local entrepreneurs to start rubber goods manufacturing units in this region.

[English]

Foreign Direct Investors

1663. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a comprehensive law to attract foreign investors;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the persistent demands of institutional financial investors; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

1664. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of debt recovery tribunals have not been satisfactory in the present legal system;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the RBI Act, Banking Regulation Act, Nationalisation of Sick Industrial Undertaking (Special Provision) Act and Bankers Book Evidence Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which these Acts are likely to be amended; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to recover debt?

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. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act) received assent of the President on 27th August, 1993 and was deemed to have come into force with effect from 24th June, 1993. The Act was declared unconstitutional and void by Delhi High Court in the matter of Delhi High Court Bar Association Vs. Union of India on 10th March 1995. The Government by then had set up five Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) at Calcutta, Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore and Ahmedabad. Immediate steps were taken by the Government to move the Supreme Court by way of a Special Leave Petition (SLP) and the Hon'ble Court admitted the SLP and stayed the order of the Delhi High Court. Thereafter, vide its order dated 18th March 1996, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed that, notwithstanding any stay order passed in any of the writ petitions, the Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) established under the DRT Act shall resume their functions. The DRTs have started functioning in right earnest only after the said Supreme Court order. As on 31st December 1997, 1841 cases have been disposed of by them and an amount of Rs. 182.05 crores was recovered. The performance in respect of the number of cases settled and the quantum of amount recovered, though not significant, can be considered reasonable considering the initial problems such as arrangements of accommodation, selection of Presiding Officers, recruitment/deputation of necessary officers and staff and provision of other necessary infrastructure.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently constituted a Working Group which is going into various problems associated with DRTs including legislative amendments. The Working Group has not yet submitted its report. It is only after the recommendations have been received from the Working Group have been processed by the Government, that a decision will be taken whether there is any need for amending of any existing laws for making DRTs more effective.

(e) Government and RBI have been emphasizing upon Bank Managements the need for improving recovery of loans and reduce the level of NPAs. In this direction, RBI have already advised banks to have documents on Loan Policy and Loan Recovery Policy prepared and vetted by their Board of Directors. Recovery Cells have also been set up by each bank at its headquarters under the charge of a General Manager. Branch-wise targets for recoveries are

fixed. The recovery position is reviewed by Chairman and Managing Director and also by the Board of Directors on regular basis.

Status of Tourism as a Industry

1665. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tourism Industry have requested the Union Government to grant industry status to this sector and bring it on par with the exporters by extending incentives to travel business units;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to take necessary steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It has not been possible to grant industry status to tourism by amending IDR Act as there is no manufacture or production of any of the articles mentioned in the First Schedule of the Act.

Infrastructures Development of Kutch for Tourism

1666. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government has submitted proposals for infrastructures development of Kutch District for promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, whether the Mandavi an unknown destination unexplored sea beach is an ideal place for youth tourists for sea border and infrastructure facilities;

(c) if so, whether the Government have gone through the Study Report submitted by the Gujarat Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the projects are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : During the year 1997-98, the Govt. of Gujarat submitted proposals for providing tourist facilities at Dholavira and for the construction of a Tourist Reception Centre at Bhuj in Kutch District. Both these projects have been sanctioned.

(b) and (c) The Tourism Master Plan prepared by

the Gujarat Government has identified Mandavi as a beautiful beach for development.

(d) The Master Plan has to be implemented by the State Government. The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance on the basis of specific project proposals and availability of funds.

Disposal Land of NTC Mills

1667. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have disposed of any land belonging to any NTC Mills as part of the revival/modernisation of these mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra and National Productivity Council India, New Delhi etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 398/98]

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear