

the companies as well the joint raids conducted with the law and order agencies of the State Governments. The following steps are taken to curb such illegal activities or criminal offences:—

- (i) collection of intelligence reports,
- (ii) round the clock patrolling and surprise raids in illegal mining sites by the security forces of the subsidiary companies of CIL and the personnel of Central Industrial Security Force,
- (iii) blacklisting the seized trucks carrying illegally mined coal,
- (iv) dozing off and filling up the illegal mining sites,
- (v) reporting cases of illegal mining whether within the leasehold areas of the subsidiary companies of CIL or outside, to the District Authorities,
- (vi) handing over the illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining/coal transportation to the local Police Stations and lodging First Information Reports for taking action in such incidents of criminal offences by the State Police Authorities, and
- (vii) keeping close liaison with the District and State Authorities in order to seek their help and cooperation in curbing such criminal offences.

#### List of Import Duty Free Items

1652. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY :  
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to prune the list of items which are imported duty free;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware that prices of certain items especially dairy items will be hiked as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the prices?

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) In this year's Budget, the Government has imposed a minimum import duty of 5% *ad valorem* on many items. This has been done with a view to provide some minimal protection to the domestic industry. The major items on which minimum duty of 5% has been imposed includes naphtha, kerosene for manufacture of N-Paraffin/LAB crude or unrefined sulphur, phosphoric acid, ammonia, fertilizers, glazed newsprint, specified wood and wood products, raw cotton and raw jute, specified goods imported for setting up of crude petroleum refinery and fertilizers projects.

(c) and (d) No minimum import duty of 5% has been imposed on any of the dairy items and, therefore, the question of their prices being hiked does not arise.

#### Assistance from NRF

1653. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from various States for assistance from National Renewal Fund, so far;

(b) whether the proposals have been processed by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the present status thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Twenty eight proposals have been received from various States for assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF). However, assistance from NRF is presently available for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings and for counselling, retraining and redeployment of workers in the organised sector.

#### Steel Authority of India

1654. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a financial restructuring plan has been sent to the Government for clearance in order to revive Steel Authority of India, as reported in the "Times of India" dated February, 1, 1999;