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*Bank Assistance*  
**Revival of Woollen Mills**

1558. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports prepared by Wool Research Association in regard to revival of two BIC Woollen Mills named Dhariwal (Punjab) and Cawnpore Woollen Mills is under consideration by the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The Wool Research Association (WRA) has submitted a report on the rehabilitation of BIC Woollen Mills. The matter regarding the future strategy for these mills taking into consideration the report of WRA is presently under consideration of the Government.

*English*

*2.60*  
**Bank Assistance for Cotton Procurement**

1559. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks have agreed to a package of short-term measures including rescheduling of loans to mills and funds for cotton procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent these banks and financial institutions have helped the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Representations were received from certain textile industry associations about problems of credit faced by the industry. The Ministry took the initiative of convening a series of meetings, including one chaired by the Textile Minister, participated by representatives of the industry and the financial institutions concerned. At the meeting, the representatives of Banks and Financial Institutions were urged to relax the norms for lending, wherever possible, to accommodate the present needs of textile industry. Minister of State (Revenue, Banking and Insurance) also met the representatives of Textile

Associations and representatives of Banks and Financial institutions to consider the working capital requirements of textile industry. The representatives of Financial Institutions promised due consideration to the issues including procurement of cotton and rescheduling of loans. The Government of India has recently approved a scheme called Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme. Under this scheme, the Ministry of Textiles would provide an interest reimbursement of 5% points to applicant textile units on loans availed of from IDBI, IFCI and the SIDBI (nodal agencies) if such units are found eligible for such loans as per the norms of the nodal agencies. Textile units would receive reimbursement of applicable interest rate of 5% interest points on loans disbursed by nominated Financial Institutions, such reimbursement would be routed through these financial institutions (IDBI, IFCI and SIDBI).

*[Translation]*

*10.62*  
**Requirement of Coal for Steel Plants**

1560. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coking coal required for each integrated steel plant of the Public Sector in the country;

(b) whether these plants are facing shortage of coking coal at present;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to import coking coal for these plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries from which coal is proposed to be imported; and

(e) the steps taken to increase the production of coking coal and avoid import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Requirement of coking coal (in 000T) for the integrated steel plants of the Public Sector in the country during

the year 1998-99 is as under:—

Plant	Imported Coking Coal	Indigenous Coking Coal	Total
VSP	1742	384	2126
BSP	2475	2055	4530
DSP	840	1260	2100
RSP	740	1110	1850
BSL	1860	2090	3950
IISCO	100	1110	1210

Coking coal is imported by Steel Plants to bridge the quantitative and qualitative gap between their requirement and availability from indigenous sources. These imports are currently taking place from Australia, Canada and Newzealand.

(e) Steps taken to improve indigenous availability of coking coal are as follows:—

- (i) Increasing raw coking coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines.
- (ii) Modification of the existing coking coal washeries to improve the capacity utilisation as well as the quality of washed coking coal.
- (iii) Increasing raw coal feed to washeries by supplying low volatile medium coking coals of suitable quality.
- (iv) Two washeries at Kedla (CCL) and Madhuband (BCCL) have been commissioned which would produce desired quality of washed coal from the coking coal available at present.

[English]

#### Consumption of Foreign Liquor in Kerala

1561. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign liquor and beer consumed in Kerala during 1997-98 and 1998-99, so far, and

(b) the reasons therefor and the amount earned by the Government by way of excise duty on liquor in the State during the above period?

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) Sir, Central Government does not levy excise duty on alcoholic liquor for human consumption. The subject matter falls under Entry 51 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, the information as furnished by the State Government of Kerala is given below:—

	1997-98	1998-99 (Upto January)
Indian made foreign liquor consumed	57.25 lakh cases (515.25 lakh litres)	52.61 lakh cases (473.49 lakh litres)
Beer Consumed	27.93 lakh cases (217.85 lakh litres)	20.96 lakh cases (163.49 lakh litres)
Amount earned by way of State excise duty	Rs. 207.99 crores	Rs. 196.24 crores