

due to various reasons such as lower capacity utilisation on account of power shortage, liquidity problems; sluggish market conditions etc.

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for the development of mine industry in the country, particularly in Bihar;

(b) the total revenue earned during each of the last three years from this Sector, State-wise; and

(c) the details of minerals exported from the country during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Government of India announced National Mineral Policy in 1993 for the development of mining sector in India which is equally applicable to all States including Bihar. This was followed up by amending the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 in January, 1994. Further, in October, 1996, guidelines were issued for granting prospecting licences over large areas upto 10,000 sq. kms. subject to certain conditions with a view to encouraging state-of-the-art technology in the field of aerial prospecting. Foreign equity upto 50% in the mineral sector has been permitted under automatic route which may also help in development of mine industry. However, this automatic route is not available for mining projects related to gold, silver, diamond and precious and semi-precious stones which are to be approved on case to case basis by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. Government has also permitted automatic approval route for foreign equity participation upto 74% for services incidental to mining viz. drilling, shafting, reclamation of mines, surveys/mapping (excluding services related to gold, silver and precious/semi-precious stones) and basic metals and alloys industries. A committee under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary in the Ministry of Mines was also constituted in February, 1997 to review the existing laws and procedures for regulation and development of minerals and to suggest steps to make them compatible with the changed policies. The Committee has since submitted its report and action for amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 has already been initiated.

(b) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines the State-wise royalty accruals on major minerals

Foreign **Trade Relation with Great Britain**

1569. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand trade relation with Great Britain;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the new areas have been identified for expanding trade relations between both the countries during 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) It is Government's endeavour to improve trade relations with all its trading partners including Great Britain. The measures to improve trade relations are on-going activities on the part of the Government and the private sector. These include interaction with the trading partners, both at Government and at business level, for addressing policy level issues; assistance for participation in international trade fairs; exchange of business delegations; conducting market survey; dissemination of commercial information; extending necessary facilities to commercial organisation etc.

A meeting of the Commercial Representatives of India located in select EU countries was held in London in May 1998. This meeting addressed the various issues relating to increasing bilateral trade with EU countries. Processed food products, electronic software, auto ancillaries, speciality garments, pharmaceuticals/herbal products and value added granites are some of the new areas for expansion of India's exports to EU countries including Great Britain.

[Translation]

Development of Mine Industry

1570. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

with the State Governments for 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below. The data for 1997-98 is yet to be compiled.

Royalty paid during 1995-96 and 1997-98

States	1995-96 (Rs. '000)	1996-97 (Rs. '000)
Andhra Pradesh	477,283	499,744
Bihar	257,843	234,263
Goa	103,800	65,006
Gujarat	260,834	305,694
Haryana	9,785	69,378
Jammu & Kashmir	2,245	1,445
Himachal Pradesh	93,502	130,206
Karnataka	405,548	371,055
Kerala	14,652	17,542
Madhya Pradesh	1078,277	1114,654
Maharashtra	201,688	217,071
Manipur	38	102
Meghalaya	6,925	6,975
Orissa	673,495	583,174
Rajasthan	1686,853	854,456
Tamil Nadu	218,728	210,610
Uttar Pradesh	42,607	28,240
West Bengal	1,786	2,959
Assam	10,300	10,850
Total India	5546,169	4723,424

(c) Details of mineral export are not maintained State-wise. However, the total exports of minerals during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 19,820 crores, Rs. 18,956 crores and Rs. 20,569 crores respectively.

Pay Package for RRBs
Regional Rural Banks

1571. **SHRI RAMSHAKAL** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has set up a Committee to review the present by scales of the employees of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the subject reviewed by the Committee alongwith the main recommendations made in the report;

(c) whether the Committee has presented any interim report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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) to (c) Yes, Sir. The pay and allowances of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are to be determined by the Government under Section 17(1) of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on the advice of Government, appointed a Committee (Mahalik Committee) to make recommendations to Government on the issue. The Committee has since submitted its report.

(d) While not accepting parity between Regional Rural Bank employees and employees of commercial banks, the Mahalik Committee has kept a certain relativity between them in making its recommendations.

(e) The matter is sub-judice and no decision has been taken by the Central Government/RBI on the recommendations of the Committee.