

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.

Statement

(in "000" tonnes)

States	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
1. Bihar	21778	19862
2. West Bengal	24413	21616
3. Uttar Pradesh	43318	44013
4. Orissa	15483	17543
5. Madhya Pradesh	42521	44009
6. Maharashtra	32898	32297
7. Gujarat	15967	17249
8. Rajasthan	6608	6560
9. Delhi	4927	5437
10. Punjab	8614	10081
11. Haryana	4095	4223
12. Tamil Nadu	11737	14186
13. Andhra Pradesh	10303	11589
14. Karanataka	2877	2308
15. Kerala	183	145
16. J & K	154	145
17. Himachal Pradesh	362	579
18. Assam	779	479
19. Others	495	449

VBAL Scam

1631. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "value based advance licence scam; 2 Customs officials in dock" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated May 10, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the present status of the case; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to inquire the number of such more cases which are unreported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) CBI has registered a case against an Additional Commissioner of Customs and others on the charge that over involved the export to increase the benefits of duty free import of raw material under Value Based Advance Licencing Scheme. This Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 31.03.1997.

NTC Marketing Divisions

1632. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Marketing Divisions the National Textile Corporation at present time;

(b) the profit or loss incurred by these divisions during the last five years, division-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to reorganise all these National Textile Corporation Marketing Divisions into a single separate subsidiary to make them more profitable;

(d) if so, by when such reorganisation is likely to take place; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The nine subsidiary corporations of NTC have under them 17 Marketing/Divisional Offices located at different places. Statement indicating the location of these offices and the profit /loss incurred by them during the last five years is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The subsidiary corporations of NTC are separate companies and marketing is a integral part of their individual operations.