

(b) if so, the details of changes suggested by the World Bank;

(c) the suggestions on which the State Government has not agreed;

(d) the difficulties shown by the State Government in accepting the World Bank's views; and

(e) whether in view of not accepting the views, the World Bank has not agreed to provide the loan to the Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) The loan agreement for the Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project for \$ 543.2 Million was signed on 4.2.1999 by representatives of Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh and World Bank. Further, World Bank has also approved a loan of \$ 210 Million on 18.2.1999 for the Andhra Pradesh Power Project.

Hence the question of difference of perceptions between World Bank and Government of Andhra Pradesh does not arise.

*Import of Copra and Coconut Oil*

1465. SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of copra and coconut oil has affected the indigenous coconut farmers due to drop in the price of their produce; and

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering their demand to stop all such imports which affect adversely the indigenous farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The import of copra and coconut oil is canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation. Import through these agencies are allowed only to enhance the availability of edible oil in the domestic market, increase capacity utilisation of processing mills and generate additional exports of oilmeals. Considering that import of Copra and coconut oil continue to be in the Restricted List, such canalised imports are unlikely to have an adverse effect on indigenous farmers. However, India is committed to phasing out of import restrictions over the next 3-4 years subject to appropriate tariff protection.

*[Translation] Public Sector*  
*SI*

**Interim Relief to Employees of PSUs**

1466. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced an interim relief of 10 per cent for the employees of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the number and names of these Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) whether this interim relief is also applicable to the employees of sick units which have been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and other loss making units whose pay scales have not been revised since 1962; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (d) On the basis of the interim recommendation of the Pay Revision Committee, which was set up by the Government to make recommendations for pay revision for executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises, the Government have allowed the payment of interim relief of 10% of basic pay subject to the minimum of Rs. 280 p.m. subject to certain conditions, to the employees of the public enterprises following the IDA pattern. One of the conditions stipulated was that no interim relief should be granted to the employees of sick enterprises referred to BIFR and other loss making enterprises which have not so far revised their pay scales from 1.1.92. The managements of the enterprises have been given the liberty to decide on the grant of interim relief to the officers and workers taking into consideration the financial position of the enterprise and other implications of allowing such interim relief. It was further stipulated that no budgetary support would be provided to the PSUs for meeting the liabilities of the payment of interim relief. As such it is not possible to indicate the number and names of the enterprises which have paid/not paid the interim relief to their employees.

*[English]*  
*Economic Adviser* *Sam...*  
*SI*  
**EAC**

1467. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministerial Empowered Committee to scrutinise and implement the recommendation of EAC on Trade and Industry for revival of economy, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) On the basis of decision taken in the first meeting of the Council on Trade and Industry, six Special Subject Groups in the nature of Task Force from among the members of the Council were constituted. The Groups have since given their recommendations. A summary of the recommendations of the Special Groups indicating, *inter-alia*, the action points has been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for follow-up action after inter-Ministerial consultations and wherever required take into consideration the views of the Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted for the purpose. The GOM comprises Ministers of External Affairs, Industry and Finance. The GOM has been authorised to co-opt Minister-in-charge of the concerned administrative Ministries when reports relating to those Ministries are being considered. The GOM may also co-opt other Ministers as and when required. The GOM is mandated to consider the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry and the Special Subject Groups thereunder made from time to time and examine the modalities of their implementation.

#### Funds from NRF for PSUs

1468. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 191 crore were provided to 12 Central profit-making Public Sector Units from the National Renewal Fund;

(b) if so, the names of such PSUs;

(c) whether six Central PSUs diverted Rs. 29.06 crore of Voluntary Retirement Scheme for meeting their operational needs in disregard of the guidelines; and

(d) if so, the name of the PSUs involved and the steps taken by the Government against the managements of those Central PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) It has been stated in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Union Government (Civil)—Performance Appraisals, No. 3 of 1998) for the year ended March 1997 that controlling Ministries released Rs. 190.73 crore to 12 profit-making Central Public Sector Undertakings (names in the Statement-I) for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as NRF assistance. It has also been mentioned in the report that 6 Central Public Sector Undertakings (names in Statement-II) diverted Rs. 29.06 crore out of the funds released to them for VRS and utilised the same for meeting their operational needs.

The matter has been taken up with the Administrative Ministries concerned for further action.

#### Statement I

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Company/Corporation	Name of Administrative Ministry/Department
1	2	3
1.	Hindustan Machine Tools	Heavy Industry
2.	Andrew Yule & Co.	Heavy Industry
3.	Bharat Heavy Plates Vessels Ltd.	Heavy Industry
4.	Bridge and Roof Co. Ltd.	Heavy Industry