

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been reported by Central Fuel Research Institute that the prospect of production of hydrogen from coal by various routes as a distinct technology has been known for quite sometime. In this context CFRI has carried out exploratory studies on certain areas, namely *via* gasification and catalytic dehydrogenation upto various scales. However, no proposal is under consideration with the Government at present.

( \* )  
**Prime Minister's Advisory Council**

1508. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister's Advisory Council has pointed out that rigid norms have turned capital markets shallow; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The Subject Group on Capital Markets and Financial Sector Initiatives of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry has gone into various aspects relating to development and regulation of different segments of the capital market. Keeping the recommendations of the Group in view, appropriate measures are being taken from time to time to meet the requirements of the capital market.

101-02  
**Ban on Export of Cotton**

1509. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :  
SHRI K. PARYMOHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government has requested the Union Government for ban on export of cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard and the steps taken to meet the shortage of yarn in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Yes sir, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written a letter to the Union Minister of Textiles requesting not to allow export of raw cotton because of the crisis being faced by the textile industry in Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was informed that under the long term export policy of Government, export of raw cotton is allowed keeping in view the specific objectives of 'stabilisation of cotton prices', 'ensuring remunerative prices to the cotton growers' and 'maintaining India's presence in the international market as a stable supplier of cotton'. The Cotton Advisory Board has estimated total supply of cotton during the current cotton season 1998-99 to the extent of 198.00 lakh bales (including carry over stocks and estimated import of 6.50 lakh bales) as against the total demand to the extent of 158 lakh bales (including estimated export of 2 lakh bales) leaving thereby a comfortable closing stock of 40 lakh bales of raw cotton. Moreover, import of raw cotton is placed under Open General Licence with 5% duty to allow free import if so needed. In the present economic scenario there is no restriction, except locational, for setting up of spinning mills. Also, Government do not have any scheme to supply yarn to any particular State/ Industry except to the Handloom Sector.

102-03  
**Credit for Agriculture and Food Processing Sectors**

1510. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :  
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :  
SHRI M. RAJAJIAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap of credit ratio between Agriculture and food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap?

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) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Administrative Expenditure

13-04

### Expenditure on Development Work

1511. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 70 percent of the expenditure incurred on development work is spent on maintaining the administrative machinery, as per study;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Administrative expenses have doubled during the last five years; and

(d) if not, the administrative expenditure during 1992-93 and 1997-98 and the amount spent under this head during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Expenditure on development activities is usually incurred as a part of Plan expenditure. In so far as the Central Government is concerned, the Plan expenditure comprises budgetary allocations made under the Central Plan for different Ministries for implementing their respective Plan programmes and schemes in various sectors, such as agriculture and allied activities, rural development, irrigation and flood control, infrastructure, social services, etc. In addition, funds are also transferred towards Central assistance for State and Union Territory Plans. Since provisions for Plan expenditure comprise largely of transfers to States/Union Territories, Central Public Sector Units, autonomous bodies and district level implementing agencies, it is not possible to segregate the administrative and other items of expenditure. On the basis of the estimates of Plan expenditure in the Budget of 1998-99, around 39 per cent of the expenditure has been allocated for Capital items and the rest for Revenue items. The Revenue items of expenditure are an essential part of the total Plan expenditure. The bulk of the revenue expenditure comprises of grants to States, district level agencies, etc.

(c) and (d) The details of the provisions, made for expenditure on pay, travel and other allowances in the Central Budget are readily available in Volume-I of the Expenditure Budget of the Central Government for the respective years.

[English]

USA

104-

### Super 301

1512. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has decided to reinstate Super 301 as a part of its global trade strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on India's trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 26th January 1999, the United State Trade Representative (USTR) announced the decision of the President to reinstate Super 301 by an Executive Order. As per the reinstated Super 301, USTR will submit the National Trade Estimate Report to the US Congress on 31st March 1999 and report on priority foreign trade practices to the US Congress by 30th April 1999. It is only for countries identified as 'priority foreign country' that the United States Trade Representative is bound to initiate an investigation. This is followed by request for consultations with the foreign Governments concerned. Further action would be contemplated only thereafter by the US Government. Hence, there is no immediate impact of this move by the US Government on India's trade.

[Translation]

1011-06

### Losses/Profit Incurred by Units of SAIL

1513. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

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

(a) whether such units have been identified by the Steel Authority of India which are constantly incurring losses or profits;

(b) if so, the names of such units under both the categories, separately;