

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, a major part of project cost (about 80% to 87.5%) comes as loan from the banks. The Government of India provides subsidy at the rate of 15% of the project costs subject to a maximum of Rs. 7,500/- for individual beneficiaries. The subsidy is authorised to the Reserve Bank of India which is adjusted in the bank accounts of individual beneficiaries. The Central Government's assistance in the form of funds for training and contingencies etc., are released to the States/UTs. As per the reports received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, there is no diversion of funds provided by Government of India for the purpose of subsidy, training and contingency, etc.

However, some cases of mis-utilisation of loans detected as the result of joint inspection by the banks and District Trade and Industries Centres of Government of Madhya Pradesh have been recommended for appropriate action to bank branches.

(d) and (e) The State Governments have been requested to enact law so that recovery of bank dues under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana can be brought at par with the arrears of land revenue. The State Governments have also been advised to prepare action plans to improve loan recovery under the scheme.

Foreign Trade

New Ministry for Internal Trade

1515. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the big trade organisations have demanded the constitution of a new Ministry for the internal trade between Centre and States; and

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Merchants' Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta and the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India, New Delhi have suggested a Ministry of Internal Trade. It is felt that various issues relating to Internal Trade are effectively addressed by concerned subject matter Ministries/Departments and there is no proposal for creating a Ministry of Internal Trade.

Pay & Allowances
Non-Payment of Salaries in Textile Mills

1516. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate total number of employees working in various textile mills at Surat in Gujarat;

(b) the latest mill-wise details of both Public and Private Sectors;

(c) whether the workers from Maharashtra, U.P., Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh working in the said mills are not getting their wages regularly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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Setting up of New Industries

1517. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up new industries during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the places where these industries are likely to be set up; and

(c) the total amount proposed to be spent on each industry respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

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Tobacco growers of Karnataka

1518. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives from cigarette industry have assured for purchase of tobacco at prices higher than the current market rates from the tobacco growers of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the exporters and traders have also given similar commitments to uplift the unsold stock piled up with farmers who have been complaining about crash in prices and lack of demand;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to help the farmers who have been on the verge of desperation as low grade tobacco was not being lifted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Manufacturers, exporters and traders of FCV Tobacco agreed to purchase the balance quantities of about 26 million kgs of the authorised FCV tobacco crop of all grades of Karnataka (1998 crop) at an average price ranging from Rs. 16.50 per kg to Rs. 55 per kg. Further, efforts are also being made to ensure exports of large quantities of low grade tobacco to Russia under the Debt Repayment route which would help in liquidating the excess stocks of low grade tobacco in the country.

Financial Assistance to NEHDC

1519. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHDC) has submitted any proposal for financial assistance for schemes for manufacturing of cane, bamboo and wooden goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHDC), Shillong has submitted a proposal during 1997-98 for setting up of Common Facility Centre for procurement/processing and finishing of cane and bamboo products in order to cater to the needs of artisans of North East Region. A sum of Rs. 32.00 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Corporation and Rs. 15.00 lakhs have already been released so far and balance will be released according to progress of work and audited statements.

Credit Deposit Ratio

1520. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level Central team visited Bihar to discuss the State's Credit Deposit Ratio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Credit Deposit Ratio of Bihar is lowest in the country; and

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

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) The State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting for Bihar held in Patna on January 7, 1999 was attended, among others, by the Union Finance Minister, senior representatives of participating Banks, Financial Institutions and State Government of Bihar. The Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio of banks in Bihar, among other issues, was also discussed in the meeting.

(c) and (d) The C.D. Ratio of public sector banks as at the end of March 1998 was 27.1 per cent for Bihar and 54.0 per cent for the country as a whole. In order to look into the reasons for low CD ratio in Bihar and suggest measures for improvement, a task force was set up comprising of senior officers of RBI, State Government, SLBC Convener Bank, and representatives of banks in the State. Action on the recommendations of the task force is an ongoing process and the progress in this regard is monitored at periodic intervals by State Level Bankers Committee.

Financial Restructuring of SAIL

1521. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has requested the Government for financial restructuring which primarily envisages adjustment of loans from Steel Development Fund and Government loans to TISCO through SAIL;

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

(c) the names of such new companies which are not contributing to Steel Development Fund; and