

accuracy. However, on the request to Government of Jammu and Kashmir a group comprising of representative from GSI, CMPDIL and J&K Minerals was set up in the meeting of sub-group on coal and lignite to study the possibility of carrying out further exploration. As per the decision of Sub-Committee on coal and lignite held at Calcutta on 19.12.1998, an expert group consisting of members from GSI, CMPDIL and MECL visited the Mohogala coalfield, Jammu during 1st week of Feb. '99 to study the need and scope for future exploration to augment the mining activities. Based on the report of the expert group, Sub-Committee will recommend the future course of action.

(b) and (c) Government have not received any proposal for handing over the management of J&K Minerals to Coal India Limited.

Export of Mango

1549. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :
SHRIM. RAJAJIAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for export of mangoes during the next season;

(b) whether mangoes get spoiled on journeys on account of inadequate cold storage; and

(c) the steps taken to arrange special refrigerators as in foreign countries to export bulk in one container to boost export of mangoes and other perishable fruits?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No specific target has been fixed for export of mangoes during the next season.

(b) and (c) Fruits including mangoes require controlled atmospheric conditions during the shipment in order to prolong their shelf life. At present such containers are not in use for the export of mangoes and other perishable fruits. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority APEEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce in association with State Government agencies and leading exporters, has initiated experiments for undertaking trial shipment of mangoes through Controlled Atmosphere (CA) container from selected regions for selected varieties of mangoes having export potential. The success of this experiment is expected to help in enhancing the shelf life, quality of the product

and its international competitiveness and thereby contribute to enhancement of export of mangoes and other fruits.

Withdrawal of FDI Proposal

1550. SHRI S.S. OWASI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after withdrawal of proposal by TATA to fly domestic airlines the foreign investment has come down;

(b) if so, the number of proposals taken back by foreign investors in different sectors;

(c) whether there is a demand in the Industrial circle to abolish Foreign Investment Promotion Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The withdrawal of the proposal to fly domestic airlines by M/s. Tata Industries Ltd., has not affected the foreign direct investment.

(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received from Industrial circles.

Duty Free Slab in SSIs

1551. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duty-free slab of turnover in Small Scale Industries had remained stagnant at Rs. 30 lakhs during last twelve years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The duty free slab of turnover in SSIs was fixed at Rs. 30 lakhs in 1986 (notification No. 175/86-CE dated 1.3.1986). Since this limit covered the majority of small scale units and therefore took care of the genuine needs of small scale

industries, no upward revision was made till 1998. In the 1998-99 Budget, this limit was increased to Rs. 50 lakhs.

(c) The Government is deeply committed to safeguard the interests of small scale industries. Speedy and healthy growth of small scale industrial units is always the objective of the Government. Besides fine tuning the existing policy, the new steps taken upto 1998-99 to safeguard the interests of small scale industries, *inter-alia*, include the following:

- (i) 46 Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres have so far been sanctioned in the country.
- (ii) Products of SSI units are displayed in International Exhibitions on Government cost.
- (iii) Financial assistance to SSI units for acquiring ISO 9000 certification.
- (iv) Norms under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) have been relaxed to facilitate the growth of small employment ventures.
- (v) The scope of Technology Development & Modernisation Fund scheme of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been expanded to cover non-exporting SSIs/ancillary units and also SSIs/ancillary units graduating out of SSI sector.
- (vi) To ensure credit to various segments of SSI sector, RBI has issued instructions that out of the funds normally available to SSI sector, 40% be given to units with investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 5 lakhs; 20% for units with investment between Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs and only the remaining 40% for other units.
- (vii) Additional measures for the promotion of Tiny enterprises:
 - Earmarking of facilities for tiny units under IID Scheme.
 - Earmarking of assistance by NSIC for tiny units.
 - Earmarking of credit under Refinance Scheme of SIDBI for Tiny Sector.
- (viii) Interest on Delayed Payments Act amended to tackle the problem of settlement of dues of SSI units from large units.

- (ix) SSI Exemption extended to goods bearing a brand name of another manufacturer when produced by units located in the rural areas through Union Budget 1999-2000.

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Indian Economy

1552. **SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :**
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on mid term review of Indian economy was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the names of the dignitaries attended the Seminar and the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any concrete Action plan has been formulated to oversee the economic crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) No Official seminar was held on the mid term review of Indian economy by the Ministry of Finance in New Delhi recently.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Budget 1999-2000 Lists the concrete action plan.

[Translation]

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Recovery of Loans

1553. **SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :**
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks have to take legal action against those customers who do not refund the loan of the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the names of the banks alongwith the amount for which legal action was taken during last three years;

(c) whether as a result of this legal action, the loans have been recovered; and

(d) if so, the amount recovered by each of the bank during the said period, year-wise?