

(BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR, M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that only one public sector steel plant namely M/s Indian Iron and Steel Company limited was registered with BIFR on 30.06.1994. In the present reporting system followed in the BIFR, separate date for steel plants are not being maintained. However, steel plants are included under the heading "Metallurgy" under which 339 references, including public and private sector units, were registered with BIFR upto 30.6.1998. Status of sick industrial companies registered under the Metallurgy Sector is enclosed at Statement.

These habilitation schemes sanctioned by the BIFR include various measures like restructuring of the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, including Government for public sector units, merger with other companies, change of management, reliefs and concessions by financial institutions/banks, provision for enhanced working capital and fresh term loans by banks and financial institutions, reliefs and concessions by the Central and concerned State Government in the form of rescheduling of their dues, grants from National Renewal Fund etc.

#### Statement

*Status of sick industrial companies registered under metallurgy section as on 30.6.1998*

	Private Sector	CPSU*	SPSU**	Total
1. Cases registered	327	5	7	339
2. Rehabilitation schemes	92	3	5	100
3. Winding up recommended	110	—	2	112
4. Dismissed as				
Non-maintainable	57	—	—	57
5. Other disposals	8	—	—	8
6. Pending at various stages	60	2	—	62

**Note:** Out of the 100 rehabilitation schemes sanctioned, 1 State PSU and 33 private companies (Total 34) have been declared no longer sick and discharged as their networth became positive on implementation of the schemes.

\* CPSU = Central Public Sector Units.

\*\* SPSU = State Public Sector Units.

[*Translation*]

#### Regional Office of Spices Board in U.P.

5475. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up regional office of the Spices Board in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details alongwith location thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to promote the production and export of spices during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance the production and productivity of various spices during 1998-99, inter-alia, including implementation of schemes for production and distribution of quality planting material; plant protection measures; area expansion and intensive cultivation practices.

Apart from the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), cardamom, saffron and spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion", grant of "Spice House Certificate" as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

#### Tax Holiday

5476 SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Gujarat Government to treat the entire taluk as a basis for determining backwardness instead of district for allowing tax-holiday has been reconsidered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in disposal thereof?

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) Suggestions from various State Governments to treat 'talukas/tehsils as a basis for determining backwardness have been considered from time to time and particularly by the Review Group to identify the backward districts for the purposes of incentives u/s 80-IA of the Income-tax Act.

(b) Suggestions have been received from time to time from various State Governments to consider 'taluka' as a basis for determining backwardness instead of district for allowing tax-holiday. The Review Study Group constituted in November, 1995 considered the same, but on the basis of the recommendation of Dr. Shanker Acharya Committee on fiscal incentives on industrialisation of backward areas, Review Group proposed to adopt 'district' as the basic unit for determining industrial backwardness as the identification of smaller units like talukas will neither be possible nor desirable.

(c) Does not arise.