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Handloom and Handicrafts Development

1609. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the performance of Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : The information is being collected from different States and will be laid on the table of the House.

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Triangular Trade Block

1610. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Government have suggested for setting up of a triangular trade block involving India, Bangladesh and Thailand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there is a sub regional economic grouping between Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand (BIMST-EC).

[Translation]

25 26

Hindi Consultative Committee

1611. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 859 dated December 3, 1998 and to state:

(a) the time by which Hindi Salahkar Samities are likely to be constituted in the Department of Steel and Mines separately; and

(b) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The constitution of the Hindi Salahkar Samitis of the Department of Steel and the Department of Mines have already been sent to the Department of Official Language (Ministry of Home Affairs) for approval.

As soon as the approvals are received, the Samitis will be constituted.

(b) Keeping in view (a) above, question does not arise.

[English]

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Alumina Project in Orissa

1612. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired by the Government for the proposed Utkal Alumina Project in Koraput district in Orissa;

(b) whether any compensation has been given to the persons whose land has been acquired;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite payment of compensation to the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

6-2-99

Policy for SSIs

1613. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have amended its policy for small scale industries;

(b) whether the policy has been further liberalised for manufacturing of new products reserved for small scale industry sector;

(c) if so, the amendments incorporated in the revised policy;

(d) whether pollution aspect has been taken into consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) There is no change in policy of SSI as announced on 6th August, 1991.

(b) and (c) The review of reservation list for the manufacture of items in small scale sector is a continuous process for which there is a Statutory Advisory Committee on Reservation. As on date there are 812 items reserved for manufacture in Small Scale Sector. Large units or foreign companies engaged in the manufacture of reserved SSI items are required to export at least 50% of their production.

(d) and (e) The pollution aspect is taken into consideration irrespective of the fact whether the industry belongs to the small scale or not. However, the procedure for obtaining the Pollution Control Certificate has been simplified for small units wherein except for 17 highly polluted industries mere acknowledgement of the application is considered as a NOC.

Further in case of industries who have installed pollution control processes, the chemicals recovered from such processes, even if they are reserved for SSI Sector, industry is permitted without mandatory export obligation of 50% in the larger interest of sustainable industrial development.

Indian Currency
22.7.99
Spilled Currency Notes

1614. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to banks to receive spoiled currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 1, 2, 5 and 10; and

(b) if so, the action taken against those banks who refuse to accept spoiled/torn currencies from the public?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India has authorised all branches of public sector banks as also certain selected private sector banks to accept and exchange all types of soiled/mutilated notes including notes of Rs. 1, 2, 5 and 10 denominations from their customers and the public. These are payable under RBI (Note Refund) Rules.

(b) Whenever any complaint or a reference regarding refusal to accept soiled/mutilated notes by any bank is received, the matter is promptly looked into by RBI and

taken up with the Head Office or Controlling Office of the concerned bank for immediate action.

25.6
Import of Gold and Gems

1615. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of gold and gems imported during the last three years with dollar/rupee value; and

(b) the amount of gems and jewellery exported during the same period with dollar/rupee value?

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) The amount of gold imported during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98:

Year	Qty. (in tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	245.22	12231
1996-97	338.191	17146
1997-98	635.786	27633

Value of gems (Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious stones) imported during the last three years:

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	7044.67
1996-97	10383.60
1997-98	11680.38

(b) The amount of gems and jewellery exported during the last three years:

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	17644.22
1996-97	16872.10
1997-98	19013.55