

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any representation for promoting the Coir Geo-Textiles Industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (e) There are several Government assisted schemes for promoting the production and marketing of coir products including Coir Geo-Textiles. These schemes are implemented by the Coir Board on behalf of the Government of India. Special attention is being paid to production and marketing of Coir Geo-Textiles which have tremendous potential for use in soil erosion control programmes in India as also in foreign countries considering overall emphasis on environment friendly products in this area.

[Translation]

Copper Factories

1621. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where copper based industries have been set up, State-wise, and the areas thereof;

(b) the progress made to increase the production capacity of these industries;

(c) whether the Government have made any arrangement for the haulage of raw material excavated from the mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Contingent Fund

1622. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government for setting of Contingent Fund for projects to cover liabilities arising out of the Central/State Government's guarantees, as suggested by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, details of the proposal; and

(c) the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to set up a Guarantee Redemption Fund for expeditious settlement of claims arising out of invocation of Government Guarantee. For this purpose, a provision of Rs. 50 crore has been made in the BE 1999-2000 as initial contribution for building up the corpus of the Fund.

Income Tax Exemption to ITIs

1623. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from any State Government for exemption from payment of Income Tax for investments towards providing infrastructural facilities to private ITIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to revise the provisions of Section 80-IA of Income Tax Act, 1961; and

(e) if so, the details 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reference has been received from the Adl. Secretary, Government of Gujarat forwarded by Shri Y.K. Alagh, ex-Minister of State for granting income tax exemption to investment made for setting up infrastructure facilities like private ITIs under the provisions of section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act.