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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]

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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.

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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?