

All these suggestions are processed and appropriate decisions are taken thereon after due consultations.

Workman Employees Directors of Banks

5502. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Workman Employee Directors in various banks; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to appoint Workman Employee Director against such vacancies?

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) and (b) The position of Workman Employee Director is vacant in 5 public sector banks. Action has already been initiated to fill up these vacancies.

Rupees Exchange Rate

5503. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether ADB in its annual report for 1997-98 suggested that some corrections are needed in the exchange rate of Rupee;

(b) If so, the details of suggestions; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) ADB in its Annual Report for 1997 indicated as follows:

"Apart from efforts to give a boost to economic growth, particularly industry growth, economic management in 1997 was dominated by concerns over the exchange rate and, at least by the latter part of the year, by efforts to limit contagion from the Asian Financial crisis. Monetary policy was eased further in April and October 97 to encourage credit offtake and boost industry growth. However, in November, the central bank tightened monetary policy in an effort to ease pressure on the rupee. Other than the exchange rate, the adverse impact of the crisis on the economy has been limited. Given the massive devaluation that have occurred in Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand and in order to maintain external competitiveness, some correction is possibly needed in the rupee's exchange rate."

(c) The exchange rate of the rupee in India is market determined. The RBI buys and sells foreign exchange in the foreign exchange market from time to time and suitable monetary policy measures are instituted, as and when necessary, to counter speculative pressures on the exchange rate and to ensure orderly foreign exchange market conditions.

Tourist Places of Manipur

5504. KUMARI KIM GANGTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan under consideration to increase tourist facilities in the tourist important areas of Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government is considering to remove the prevailing Restricted Area Permit system to boost Tourism in Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Task Force on North East constituted by the Ministry of Tourism has identified a number of tourist places in Manipur for development of tourism infrastructure. Accordingly, during 97-98 four projects amounting to Rs. 186.11 lakhs were sanctioned to increase tourist facilities in the State.

(c) In order to give boost to tourism, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has recently opened up certain areas for tourists in the State of Manipur.

Special Additional Customs Duty

5505. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Revenue realised from Wind Energy Sector by way of customs duty during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(b) the envisaged collection by way of customs duty including newly introduced Special Additional Customs Duty for 1998-99?

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) and (b) The import data is not maintained sector-wise and, therefore, the requisite information is not readily available. The information, however, is being collected.

[*Translation*]

Closure of Private Limited Companies

5506. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of private limited companies in regard to which closure orders have been issued by the Bureau of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) during the last five years; and

(b) the number of companies which have filed petitions in the court against this order?

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 Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that 378 sick industrial companies in the private sector were recommended by it for winding up to the concerned High Court U/S 20(1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) during the last five years (1.4.1993 to 31.3.1998). However, time and labour involved in furnishing names of these 378 sick industrial companies would not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(b) Section 20(1) of SICA empowers the BIFR to recommend winding up of unviable sick industrial companies. The winding up recommendations are sent to the concerned High Court for necessary action according to law. The BIFR has no further jurisdiction to deal with such cases unless remanded back by the High Court. BIFR has reported that no separate data on the petitions filed by the companies in the Courts is maintained by the BIFR.

[English]

High Power Committee on KVIC

5507. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any High Power Committee on Khadi and Village Industries Commission was appointed;

(b) if so, the schemes and programmes formulated on the recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the Commission is directly providing funds to the entrepreneurs;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise;

(e) whether any provision has been made by the Commission for providing loans to the women entrepreneurs also; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per recommendations of High Power Committee, KVIC formulated a programme known as the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for creating 2 million additional employment. As part of this programme, it also launched a scheme in the name of Margin Money Scheme for financing viable V.I. projects.

(c) Yes, Sir. KVIC provides funds to individual as well as institutional entrepreneurs for village industry projects through its Margin Money Scheme.

(d) Details of Industry-wise projects directly financed by KVIC under its village industries programme upto 30.6.98 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) There is no separate earmarking of funds for women entrepreneurs. KVIC provides additional 5% Margin Money in the case of women entrepreneurs and women institutions.

(f) In view of reply at (e) above, question does not arise.

Statement

Position of projects/funds sanctioned and disbursed as on 30.6.1998

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Industry	No. of Projects Sanctioned			Amount Sanctioned			Amount Disbursed		
		Instt.	Indv.	Total	Instt.	Indv.	Total	Instt.	Indv.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Rural Engg.	7	6	13	44.105	30.908	75.013	11.204	7.137	18.341
2.	PCPI	33	13	46	316.82	89.82	406.64	108.89	16.81	125.70
3	Lime	5	4	9	38.73	30.18	68.91	18.118	-	18.118
4.	Fibre	-	1	1	-	2.07	2.07	-	1.50	1.50
5.	Palmgur	-	1	1	-	3.56	3.56	-	2.195	2.195
6.	FVPI	6	5	11	79.06	24.42	103.48	29.59	10.764	40.354
7.	G&K	1	12	13	5.50	7.89	13.39	-	-	-
8.	Leather	22	4	26	11.42	5.651	17.071	-	-	-
9.	Plastic	2	3	5	27.15	24.439	51.589	-	73.84	73.84
10.	Beekeeping	-	3	3	3.55	10.99	14.54	-	2.73	2.73