

estimated at 98.47 million tonnes. Names of the major areas of dispute and the amount of coal locked in are given below :

Name of area	Amount of coal (In million tonne)
Block-II	39.14
Barora	20.38
Govindpur	7.12
Katras	13.90
Sijua	3.23
Kusunda	3.90
Lodna	1.80
E/Jharia	5.10
C.V. Area	3.90
Total	98.47

(b) The total average annual production loss estimated on this account works out to 4.18 million tonnes.

(c) The total number of employments claimed for land disputes comes to 3638.

(d) and (e) There is no such formal agreement. However, the matter regarding employment against land acquired has figured in some minutes of meetings between the area officials and local villagers. These are for Chandan OCP, Kharkharee Colliery and Govindpur Colliery.

(f) The area officials have sought the help of District Administration and local villagers to resolve the problem.

[Translation]

Percentage of Handloom Cloth

2643. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the average percentage of cloth is produced by the handloom sector against the total production of cloth in the country;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to fulfil the housing needs of handloom workers and to augment their efficiency;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) During 1997-98 the percentage of cloth

produced by the Handloom Sector against the total production of cloth in the country is provisionally assessed at 21.42%.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Handloom Weavers are provided Central Assistance for construction of Workshed and Workshed-cum-Houses in rural and urban areas for which loan facility is required to be made available by Financial Institutions/HUDCO.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Growth of SSIs

2644. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives for speedy and healthy growth of Small Scale Industries (SSIs) during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of new policy initiatives including Policy on reservation, facilities to promote export of items manufactured by SSIs etc. during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Speedy and healthy growth of Small Scale Industrial Units is always the objective of the Government. Besides fine tuning the existing policy, the new initiatives taken in 1997-98 and 1998-99, *inter-alia*, include the following;

(i) Investment ceiling in plant and machinery for SSI units has been raised from Rs. 60 lakhs to Rs. 300 lakhs and for tiny units from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs to make them more competitive.

(ii) In order to dispel the apprehension that bigger units in the SSI sector will corner the maximum benefit, RBI has issued instructions that out of the funds normally available to SSI sector, 40% be given to units with investment in plant and machinery up to Rs. 5 lakhs; 20% for units with investment between Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs and only the remaining 40% for other units.

(iii) 16 Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres were sanctioned in 1997-98.

(iv) Products of SSI units were displayed in nine international exhibitions in 1997-98 on Government cost.

(v) Though Abid Hussain Committee had recommended abolition of Reservation Policy, this policy continues to remain in force. The list of

reserved items is, however, reviewed from time to time in accordance with the existing provisions of the industries (Development & Regulation) Act.

- (vi) Reduction of threshold limit in the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG), zero duty scheme for electronics, textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, etc.; provision for setting up of Private Bonded Warehouses (PBW) for importing of items for supply on payment of duty against specific licences and reduction in the threshold limit for export houses are some of the provisions in the revised Export Import Policy effective from 13th April, 1998 which would help SSI exporters.
- (vii) Norms under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) have been relaxed to facilitate the growth of small employment ventures in the North Eastern States.
- (viii) A new scheme for setting up mini tool rooms in association with State Governments/Non-Government Organisations has been initiated.
- (ix) To improve credit flow to SSI sector, Reserve Bank of India has advised banks that SSI units requiring aggregate fund based working capital limits up to Rs. 4 crores (raised from earlier limit of Rs. 2 crores) from the banking system may be provided working capital limit computed on the basis of simplified procedure and on the basis of minimum 20% of their projected annual turnover; to accord SSI units with a good track record the benefit of lower spreads over the prime lending rate with a view to moderating the cost of credit to SSI units and to delegate enhanced powers to the branch managers of the specialised SSI branches so that most of the credit proposals are decided at the branch level.
- (x) The scope of Technology Development & Modernisation Fund scheme of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been expanded to cover non-exporting SSIs/ancillary units and also SSIs/ancillary units graduating out of SSI sector.
- (xi) Enhancement of ceiling on loan amount of composite loan scheme to Rs. 2 lakhs from earlier ceiling of Rs. 50,000 to ensure timely availability of term loan and working capital to smaller SSI units.
- (xii) New schemes have been introduced by SIDBI to enhance the export capabilities of SSI units, for marketing assistance, acquisition of ISO 9000 certification, factoring services and Bills Re-discounting against inland supply of bills.

(xiii) The Excise exemption limit for Small Scale Units which had been at Rs. 30 lakhs since 1988, has, in the Union Budget 1998-99, been increased to Rs. 50 lakhs.

Functioning of Enforcement Directorate

2645. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently a number of Members of Parliament demanded Prime Minister's intervention into the high-handed functioning of the Enforcement Directorate;

(b) if so, whether MPs. have handed over the investigation complaints against the excesses committed by Enforcement Directorate officers to the CBI;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined all these reports; and

(d) if so, the action being taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The cases mentioned in the letters of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament have undergone extensive scrutiny by various Courts. None of the Courts have passed any adverse order/observations on the working of the officers of the Enforcement Directorate.

Khan Committee Report

2646. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khan Committee on Harmonisation of Banks and Financial Institutions has been set up by the Government;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had in December, 1997 constituted a Working Group with a view to harmonising the role and operations of Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and banks. Headed by Shri S.H. Khan, former Chairman and Managing Director of