

(b) if so, the number of units who have failed to meet their export obligation and the extent of failure during 1996-97, state-wise;

(c) the details of top ten defaulting exporters during 1996-97 with the extent of default; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Govt. has been drawn to the Stated news item regarding "Export obligation defaulters to be penalised".

Action in advance licences cases where export obligation has not been fulfilled has been initiated to recover the Customs duty alongwith the interest and surrender of Special Import Licence under para 128 of Hand Book of procedure Vol. I, 1992-97. In cases where there is a suspicion of fraud or misrepresentation, Enforcement action under the FT(D&R) Act, 1992 has been instituted. The Customs authorities have also initiated adjudication proceedings in all such cases under the Customs Act, 1962 and other related legal Enforcement provisions. The data of such default in export obligation is not being maintained State-wise or individual exporter wise basis.

Crisis in Hindustan Newsprint

5510. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government of Kerala has submitted a memorandum regarding present crisis in the Hindustan Newsprint Limited in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A memorandum dated 24.7.96 submitted by Kerala Newsprint Employees Union on the crisis in Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Kerala in marketing of newsprint was forwarded by the Government of Kerala. The memorandum brought out the problems faced by Hindustan Newsprint Limited on account of the import of news print without customs duty etc. and sought review of the newsprint import policy.

(c) 10% customs duty has been levied on imported newsprint since October'96 and "Actual User Condition" has been imposed from January'97.

Renewable Energy Sources

5511. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated potential of renewable energy sources in the country, State-wise and for Maharashtra in particular;

(b) the estimated potential proposed to be released during the 9th Plan with State-wise and source-wise break up and for Maharashtra in particular;

(c) the details of achievements reported during 1996-97, source-wise, State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(d) the details of agenda of action to be taken during 1997-98, State-wise, source-wise with details of financial and physical target fixed; and

(e) highlights of fresh policy initiatives taken during 1996-97 and under consideration during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The estimated potentials for the installation of Improved Chulhas and Biogas Plants, state-wise including for the State of Maharashtra are given in statement-I. Broad estimates potentials of various renewable energy sources which have been made on country-wide basis, are given in statement-II.

(b) The potentials of various renewable energy sources in the country proposed to be realised during the 9th Plan, are given in statement-III attached.

(c) The achievements made under Non-conventional Energy Programmes during 1996-97 programme-wise and State-wise including the State of Maharashtra, are given in statement-IV attached.

(d) The financial and physical targets set under various non-conventional energy programmes for the year 1997-98, are given in statement-V attached. State-wise targets are finalised based on past performance and proposals received from the States.

(e) The major policy initiatives taken during 1996-97 which would also continue in 1997-98 include provision of fiscal and financial incentives under a wide range of programmes being implemented by the Ministry and simplification of procedure for private investment including foreign direct investment in the non-conventional energy projects. The fiscal incentives provided for this purpose include 100% depreciation in the first year of the installation of the project, exemption from excise duty and sales tax and concessional customs duty on the import of material, components and equipment used in non-conventional energy projects. In addition, the Government provides financial incentives such as interest-subsidy and capital subsidy from the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and soft loans from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Public Sector Company of the Ministry.

For creation attractive facilities for evacuation and purchase/wheeling/banking of electrical energy generated from non-conventional sources, the Ministry has issued a set of guidelines to all the States. It has been suggested that the States should announce general policies for purchase/wheeling/banking of electrical energy generated