

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Silk Board has received requests/suggestions from sericulture States (including Andhra Pradesh) for grant of subsidy for drip irrigation in sericulture sector. After examining/ considering the various proposals/requests/suggestions, the Central Silk Board has recently drafted a scheme for providing subsidy for installation of drip irrigation system.

(c) Under the existing Export-Import policy there are no restriction on export of silk. However, in order to maximise foreign exchange earnings, the government is taking steps to boost export of value added silk products instead of raw silk.

Funds to Jute Corporation of India

3507. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jute Corporation of India has been provided with adequate funds to purchase raw jute directly from the jute growers during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of raw jute purchased by the Jute Corporation of India during the year 1995-96 and estimated purchase likely to be made in 1996-96?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) The Jute Corporation of India did not procure raw jute during 1995-96 as the prices of raw jute ruled much above the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Procurement under support price operations during 1996-96 will similarly depend on the price situation and no estimate can be made at this stage. Current prices are above the MSP. However, a close watch is being kept on the movement of prices.

Smuggling of Basmati Rice

3508. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Basmati rice of India is smuggled to Norway, Sweden, Spain and Portugal from Punjab and U.P. where demand for Indian Basmati rice is the highest; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to stop such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No incident of smuggling of

Basmati Rice from Punjab & Uttar Pradesh to Norway, Sweden, Spain and Portugal has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, field formation are alert to detect & prevent all smuggling including smuggling of Basmati Rice.

Violation of RBI Norms by Private Banks

3509. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the private sector banks are offering bill discounting facilities to exporters holding accounts with other banks in gross violations of Reserve Bank of India regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the government thereto; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against such banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that some of the banks in the private sector have ignored RBI instructions while offering bill discounting facilities to their exporter clients holding accounts with other banks because these facilities are low risk, self liquidating and also ensure liquidity for the financing banks which are eligible for refinance from RBI against eligible export bills. In such cases, the banks do not wait for the receipt of no objection certificates from other banks financing the grower under a consortium and do not take into account the quantum of bank finance permissible while releasing their limits.

(c) RBI verifies the compliance with its guidelines during the course of its inspections/scrutinies. The violations observed during the course of the inspections/scrutinies are brought to the notice of the bank concerned and if such instances continue penalties are imposed against the erring banks.

[Translation]

Bringing Government Departments under MRTP Act

3510. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MRTP Commission in a recent decision has brought Government Departments rendering services under the MRTP Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the fallout

of the judgement of the MRTP Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) The MRTP Commission in terms of their Order dated 1.6.1996 in RTP Enquiry No. 241 of 1995 in the matter of Shri Gir Prasad Vs. Irrigation Department of Government of Uttar Pradesh and Others have held that Government Departments rendering a service for a fee in terms of the definition of 'service' in Section 2(r) of the MRTP Act, 1969 will be covered by the provisions of the Act

The implications of the judgement are being examined.

[English]

MODVAT Schemes for Textile Fabrics

3511. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to postpone the extension of the modvat scheme to textile fabrics;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, and

(c) the time by which the Scheme will come into operation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) As part of this year's budget proposals, the Modvat scheme was extended to textile fabrics. This scheme was to come into force with effect from the 1st of August, 1996. However, Government received representations from certain sectors of the textile industry for some changes in the proposed scheme. The textile processors as well as mills had also requested for extension of time to enable them to familiarise themselves with the procedural requirements of the Modvat scheme on textile fabrics has been deferred upto 1st September, 1996.

Grant of Loans to SCs/STs and Minorities

3612. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/banks grant loan upto five lakhs to the members of minority communities for their trade/business;

(b) whether such loan for business of SCs/STs is

sanctioned upto Rs. 50,00,000 (Rs. Fifty lakhs);

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the government propose to increase the loan limit in respect of members belonging to minority communities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Under the Government's 15 point programme, banks have been advised to ensure that minority communities get in fair and adequate measure, benefits of all development programmes. The quantum of loan to be granted by the bank to any borrower depends on project cost, repayment capacity of the borrower etc. and no ceiling limits specifically for minority communities or SCs/STs have been prescribed.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation of Villagers of Basundhara Coal Mines

3513. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villagers displaced so far by Basundhara Coal Mines in Sundargarh district and the steps taken by the Government for their resettlement;

(b) the number of persons from the displaced families given employment in basundhara Coal Mines so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide employment in Basundhara Coal Mines to the members of displaced families on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) 126 families of village Tikilipara are to be resettled to facilitate operation of Basundhara (East) Coal Mine. Rehabilitation site for 106 families has been fully developed with all civic amenities and the plots distributed. The families are being motivated to construct houses at the rehabilitation site.

(b) Offer of employment to 79 land oustees or their nominees have so far been issued.

(c) The employment is provided as per the rehabilitation guidelines issued by the Government of Orissa. Accordingly action is taken as per these guidelines.