

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). During the last two years, ITDC has incurred plan expenditure of the order of Rs. 157.76 lacs on its existing units in Maharashtra as per details given below :

Name of the Unit	Plan Expenditure		Total (Provisional)
	1993-94	1994-95	
	(Rs. in lacs)		
Hotel Aurangabad	11.45	24.98	36.43
Duty Free Shops	100.91	20.42	121.33
			157.76

(c) and (d). ITDC's Annual Plan 1995-96 makes a provision of Rs. 44.00 lakhs on renovation of guest rooms, corridor, conference hall, kitchen etc. of Hotel Aurangabad Ashok.

[English]

Coverage of Prawn Culture under Insurance

3882. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Insurance Companies do not provide insurance cover to brackish water prawn culture from destruction caused by cyclones, tidal waves and diseases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government contemplate positive measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). In Prawn Culture business, the general insurance industry has recently introduced comprehensive insurance covers against damages caused by accidents, cyclones and diseases in 'disease free' zones. Such insurance cover is limited to accidental damage only in the disease and natural calamity prone zones to avoid excessive exposure and to control the underwriting results. The scope of the insurance cover is reviewed by the insurance industry from time to time based on claims experience and other relevant factors.

Ayurvedic Medicines

3883. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great demand of Indian ayurvedic medicines and natural herbs in Europe;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total quantity of the above items exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There is a significant demand for Indian Ayurvedic medicines and natural herbs in Europe.

(b) Figures for total export of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines and Ayurvedic and Unani herbs for the last three years are as under :

			In Rs. Crores
	1993-94	1994-95 (April-Nov., 1994)	
1992-93	32.59	29.13	30.03

Country-wise details are available in the DGCI and S publication "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India" available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Drugs and Pharmaceuticals including Ayurvedic medicines and herbs, are identified by the Government as 'Extreme Focus' group of items for the export promotion. The steps taken by the Government in accordance with this include, *inter-alia*, extension of Market Development Assistance, liberalisations in the policy and procedures, and promotion of measures like exchange of trade delegations, participation in trade fairs abroad, and exchange and dissemination of relevant information.

Public Issues

3884. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently a number of companies which have low paid up capital, have been approaching SEBI for floating public issues of huge amounts, as reported in the Times of India dated January 21, 1995;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected so far by SEBI and action taken thereon; and

(c) the way in which the Government propose to contain this upsurge in capital market caused mainly by low equity-based companies even at the starting point?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Beedi Workers

3885. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers engaged in plucking of tendu leaf, procuring and making Beedi in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of welfare schemes introduced for them;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the non-implementation of these schemes; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken to protect the interest of those Beedi workers in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh?