

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The purpose of maternity leave is to enable recuperation of the health of the mother after delivery. As such the period of 12 weeks' maternity leave is considered adequate.

[Translation]

#### Investment Made by LIC

911. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has made any investment through private companies with the Reliance Industrial Group by purchasing shares and debentures during the last three years and if so, the amount of investment made as such;

(b) the criteria followed while making investment through such private companies;

(c) the sectors for which Life Insurance Corporation has purchased shares from share market during the said period and the amount involved therein;

(d) whether the value of shares of this company has declined after this purchase; and

(e) the criteria followed while taking such investment decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) The Life Insurance Corporation has reported that in the last three years it had purchased in the secondary market shares to the extent of about Rs. 690.66 crores, of listed public limited companies both in the private and public sectors in the Cement, Engineering, Iron, Power, Textiles, Dyes, Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, Electrical goods and Paper & Boards industries sectors.

(d) while the earning values and the book

values of shares of the companies have generally shown a positive indication, the market values have dropped due to bearish market trends.

(e) Investments in Equity Shares of Company are made by LIC keeping in view the provisions of Section 27A of the Insurance Act, 1938 as applicable to LIC and as per the parameters set out by the Investment Committee constituted by the Corporation.

[English]

#### Modernisation of Textiles Industry

912 SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :

Will the Minister of State for TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any package for modernisation of cotton trade and textile industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) No. separate package has been formulated by the government for modernisation of cotton trade and textile industry in the country. However, Government constantly monitors the health of the textile sector with a view to ensure that the growth is not retarded in any manner. Modernisation is a continuous process and depending on the needs thrown up from time to time, Government takes appropriate steps through policy interventions.

Some of these steps are :

(1) Permitting import of textile machinery under OGL and reduction in duty of such import to encourage import of sophisticated machinery.

(2) Setting up of computer aided design centres for promoting upgradation of quality designs in the powerloom sector.

(3) Taking up of research projects through Textile Research Associations to improve productive capabilities of the textile sector.

(4) Establishment of National Institutes of Fashion Technology and information about fashion trends in the industry.

(5) Liberalisation of licensing policy to encourage setting up of new units.

(6) To facilitate easy access of import of machinery Government has formulated an EPCG scheme and 100% Export Oriented Scheme.

#### **ILO Aid for Child Labour**

913. SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has offered an aid for eradication of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereon; and

(c) the details of funds received from the ILO during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). As part of the Technical Cooperation Programme of the ILO, India has been participating in the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) since 1992. For the two biennia 1992-93 and 1994-95, the allocation for India under IPEC was USD 3,651,148. This amount is being utilised by the ILO in consultation with the Government of India to, inter alia, sensitize employers and employees against child labour and also for direct support projects benefiting around 70,000 child labourers so far.

In addition, the Government's efforts to tackle the child labour problem have also been assisted through an ILO Project, the "Child Labour Action & Support Programme" (CLASP) for which an amount of USD 830,392 has been earmarked for 1992-1995.

[Translation]

#### **Expansion of Jamshedpur Airport**

914. SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal of expansion of airport at Jamshedpur in Bihar has been lying pending since long;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) by when this airport is likely to become operative after the completion of expansion work and the reasons for delay in executing this work; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this expansion work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) . The Jamshedpur airport belongs to Tata Iron and Steel Company. Airport Authority of India has no plan to upgrade this airport.

[English]

#### **Export of Skirts to U. S.**

915. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the differences of the U. S. Government over the import of Indian garments especially skirts to that country have been settled down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other country has raised any objections to the imports of Indian garments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e) . During 1995, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, a statutory body, had tested various kinds of rayon apparel items imported from India as a follow up to the measures initiated last year to check the imports of quickly flammable skirts made of 100% sheer rayon chiffon. The Commission had found that the rayon skirts, blouses and dresses being exported from India were meeting US