

had sufficient flexibility to meet the requirements according to national priorities. It was also explained that the foreign investment policy of India formed a part of and also reflected the industrial, economic and social policy of the country. The Indian side further made it clear that India's policy was non-discriminatory and provided favourable environment to the foreign investors to operate.

Overbridge at Bharuch Station

7879. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an overbridge near Bharuch railway station on Western Railway;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Railway can take up the work, only after the State Government sanctions its portion of expenditure for the work.

[English]

Promotion of Coir Industry

7880. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote coir industry in Kerala;

(b) the welfare measures taken for the coir workers; and

(c) the assistances given to Kerala Government for the modernisation of coir

industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Following programmes, Financial Assistance, Technical Support, Training and Extension facilities have been extended by the Coir Board/Govt. for promoting the development of the coir industry in Kerala:

1. Central Scheme of Cooperativisation.
2. Rebate Scheme for Market Development.
3. Cash Compensatory Support on Exports.
4. Foreign Publicity Programmes and Market Development Missions under ITC/SIDA project.
5. Assistance to organised sector for Construction/Renovation of Workshops.
6. Research and Development Programmes for Improving Productivity, Upgrading Quality and Improving Skills of Coir Workers.
7. Collection and Compilation of Statistics relating to Coir Industry in Kerala.

(b) the welfare measure taken for the coir workers of Kerala are:

1. Model Coir Village Scheme is being implemented in 53 villages of Kerala at a cost of Rs. 140 lakhs approximately, wholly funded by the Central Government. The Scheme includes provision of houses of SC/ST coir

workers, sanitary latrines, fuel efficient smokeless choolas, sheds, community halls/rest rooms, drinking water schemes, bunds etc.

2. Medicare Scheme—the scheme is being implemented in Kerala at a cost of Rs. 200 lakhs (shared by Central Government and Kerala Government on 50:50 ratio). The scheme provides for supply of medicines, vitamins and minerals, medical caps and treatment of occupational diseases and construction of hospital blocks in existing hospitals for in-patient treatment of coir workers.
3. The Coir Board has extended assistance @ Rs. 20,000/- for construction of permanent buildings for anganwadis. Assistance for 39 such buildings have been extended so far.

(c) The assistance given to Kerala Government for modernisation of coir industry are as under:

1. Assistance @ Rs. 3,000/- for construction/modernisation of workshops of small scale coir manufacturing units given to 293 units.
2. During the 7th Plan period, a total of Rs. 187 lakhs was sanctioned to the Govt. of Kerala under Co-operativisation scheme for strengthening coir cooperatives including scheme for strengthening coir cooperatives including modernisation of their operations.
3. Training has been imparted by the Coir Board to the workers of 85 coir societies, for upgradation of quality.

Under Weight Coal Wagons

7881. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI
AHER:
SHRI A. CHARLES:
SHRI YADVENDRA DATT:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale industries are put to heavy financial losses because of pilferage, theft, accidental spillage of coal on the way and short weight coal wagons;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted as to the extent of shortages and how far the small scale industries suffer on this account, and

(c) the measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Some complaints have been received from coal consumers regarding shortage of coal in wagons received by them.

(b) and (c). No specific study has been conducted to ascertain the extent of shortages of coal in transit and the loss suffered by small scale industries on this account. Claim prevention machinery and security Department of Railways carry out checks against pilferage and theft in sensitive areas and initiate action against the culprits. Railways have also introduced movement of coal in block rakes with very fast transit to minimise chances of pilferage and theft enroute. Coal companies generally do not load coal in defective wagons to avoid spillage while in transit. Coal companies have also installed weigh-bridges to weigh coal wagons before despatch.