

The actual claims which are allowed shall be known after the final settlement is arrived at.

Production of Cloth

5743. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people employed in powerloom sector and handloom sector separately;

(b) the quantum of cloth produced separately in each of these sectors during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the handloom sector was less benefited as compared to the benefits of concessions given to the textiles industry for export during these year; and

(d) if not, the value and quantum of cloth exported in 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 out of total cloth manufactured in each of these sectors alongwith the capital invested therein during these years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The number of people employed in Powerloom and Handloom Sectors are 6.8 million and 12.9 million (approx.) respectively.

(b) The Quantum of cloth produced by the Powerloom and Handloom and sectors during the last three years are given below :

(in mn. sq.m)

Sector	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Provisional)
Powerloom	15994	15976	16332
Handloom	5851	6180	7020

(c) No Sir. In fact the handloom sector has exported cotton fabrics and made-ups more than the targets during 1993-94, 94-95, except 95-96.

(d) The value of cloth Cotton fabrics & made ups exported during the last 3 years in Handloom & Powerloom Sectors is as below :

(Rs. in Crores)

Sector	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Targets)
Mill made			
Powerloom	3394.47	4620.64	5535.53
Handloom	1297.48	1504.60	1491.32

The quantity-wise export figures for separate sectors & figures on capital invested in the above segments of Textiles sectors are not maintained because of decentralised nature of vast fringe of each segment.

[English]

Rise in Price of Cement

5744. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been unprecedented rise in price of cement during the last three years;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to bring down the price at the level of 1994-95; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. There has been no abnormal increase in price of cement during the last three years. During 1993-94, the price did not increase due to fall in demand and general recessionary conditions. During 1994-95 price increased on an average by Rs. 20-25/- per bag of 50 kgs. cement. This was mainly due to increase in the price of inputs, cost of fuel, transportation and overheads. During 1995-96 prices have been stable except during the period December-March which is a period of peak demand for cement. There were also short term rises in prices in a few markets like Bombay due to temporary shortages caused by transportation bottlenecks, strikes, etc.

(b) The control on price of cement has been removed with effect from 1st March, 1989. The industry has also been delicensed. Government has been encouraging creation of additional capacity and higher production of cement so that there is a healthy competition in the market and control on price. Government is providing all infrastructure support to the cement industry such as supply of coal and rail wagons on a priority basis.

(c) Does not arise.

Banking Support to Essar Group

5745. SHRI C. NARASIMHAN :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI's Department of Supervision (DOS) recently investigated into exposure of the banking system in the Essar group;

(b) whether the DOS investigation of the Essar group revealed that the total exposure of all banks and institutions together was over Rs. 4000 crores which was completely out of line with the group's turnover;

(c) whether RBI's DOS has suggested that the entire exposure of the financial institutions in the Essar group be classified as substandard; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that based on a complaint received by it, the matter of alleged misuse of banks' funds by the Essar Group of companies was got investigated by the State Bank of India (SBI). The report submitted by SBI has revealed that in certain cases, transfers were only book entries and no clear idea could be formed about their end-use. RBI is advising the SBI to get the matter investigated by an independent Chartered Accountants firm.

(c) and (d). RBI has reported that further action in the matter will be taken after the Chartered Accountants firm's report is available.

Poverty Alleviation Scheme

5746. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a move to restructure the existing poverty alleviation schemes for their effective implementation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have revived the credit linked self-employment scheme;

(c) whether there are a large number of schemes whose implementation has resulted in loss;

(d) whether the Government are considering to revive all the schemes to make them profitable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). In a recent meeting with the representatives of some Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and banks to review credit linked programmes, it was recognised that considering the large number of credit linked poverty alleviation and self-employment schemes sponsored by various Ministries of Government of India as also State Governments, there was a need for rationalisation of these schemes into simple categories with well understood procedures. The meeting also took into account the fact that these schemes were targetted towards different sections of society with their own characteristics. It was, therefore, recommended that RBI will constitute a Group to study and make detailed recommendations on the integration and rationalisation of schemes. Accordingly, a Group has been formed with representatives of some State Governments, some public sector banks and a few Ministries of Central Government. Pending the submission of the report and its acceptance, it is not possible to spell out the details of restructuring of the existing poverty alleviation and self employment generation schemes.

Sick Industrial Companies Act

5747. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have some changes in the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such changes are likely to be incorporated? ▶

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Pursuant to the announcement made in Finance Minister's speech on the Budget for 1996-97, Government have initiated a total review of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985

(SICA) and the working of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with the intention to bring a new bill in Parliament.

Supply of Coal

5748. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy for distribution of coal to small industries and general consumers with special reference to Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the non-availability of coal in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to make coal available in deficient areas of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). A well defined policy is being followed for supply of coal to industrial and other non-core sector consumers including those in Bihar. Coal supplies to the consumers in the non-core sector are made as per the linkages given by the coal companies and/or sponsorship received from the respective sponsoring authorities.

(c) There has been significant growth in despatches of coal to the consumers in Bihar during the year 1995-96. The total despatches of coal to all consumers in Bihar have been of the order of 12.993 m.ts. as against 11.874 m.ts. during the year 1994-95.

(d) Coal companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Bihar by increasing production of coal. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Scales Scheme under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirement of linkages/ sponsorships.

Silk Export

5749. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether silk export have declined both in terms of value and quantity during 1995-96 as compared to previous year ;

(b) if so, the extent of decline during the above period;

(c) the names of the countries which have reduced import of silk from India; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost export of silk ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Export of silk goods during 1995-96 were 49.2 million metres valued at Rs. 845.16 crores as against exports of 61 million metres valued at Rs. 927 crores during 1994-95.