

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

(a) As per information furnished by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), there were 35 textile mills in Uttar Pradesh registered with the BIFR as on 31.1.97. Out of these 7 cases of mills have been dismissed as non-maintainable, 3 mills have been declared no longer sick, 18 mills have been recommended for winding up, and rehabilitation schemes have been sanctioned in the case of 2 mills.

(b) Government has set up the BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills. Government has set up Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless due to permanent/ partial closure of mills.

[English]

Basic Minimum Services

28. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the basic minimum services announced and subsequently approved by the Government;

(b) the amount spent on those programmes so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to continue the programmes pertaining to these basic minimum services during the Ninth Plan period, and

(d) if so, the fund reserved therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The seven basic minimum services identified by the Chief Ministers Conference held on 4-5th July, 1996 and approved by the Government are :

- (i) 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.
- (ii) 100 per cent coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas.
- (iii) Universalisation of primary education.
- (iv) Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.
- (v) Extension of Mid-day Meal Programme in primary schools, to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections.
- (vi) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.
- (vii) Streamlining the Public Distribution System targeted to families below the poverty line.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1690.42 crore has been released to States/UTs so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A sum of Rs. 2466 crore has been allocated to States/UTs in the 1996-97 budget in addition to the provisions already made in the Annual Plans of States/ UTs for these seven identified Basic Minimum Services. Out of this Rs. 250 crore was allocated for slum improvement programmes.

Liberalisation of Gold Import Scheme

29. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have further liberalised the gold import policy recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of liberalisation on the domestic prices of gold; and

(d) the quantity and value of gold imported in the country since the new scheme put in operation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Government has increased the limit of gold which can be imported by a Non-Resident Indian from 5 kgs. to 10 kgs. by issuing a Notification No. 1/97-Cus. dated 1.1.1997, subject to payment of customs duty at Rs. 220/- per 10 gms. in foreign exchange.

(c) It has been reported that the price of gold in domestic market has come down by about Rs. 120/- per 10 gms. after the increase in the ceiling.

(d) 49.86 tons of gold valued at Rs. 1908.34 crores has been imported from 1.1.1997 to 15.2.1997.

Per Capita Grant to States

30. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the per capita Central grant given to each State during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period alongwith amount provided;

(b) the criterion fixed for providing Central grants; and

(c) the Central loans outstanding against each State at the end of 1995-96 and estimated to be at the end of 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.