

- (a) the number of textile mills in the public and private sector, respectively in Kerala;
- (b) the number of persons employed in these mills, sector-wise;
- (c) the number of mills which have been closed down in the State due to financial crunch;
- (d) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Union Government for assistance and relief measures;
- (e) if so, the details of assistance and relief sought; and
- (f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The number of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills in the public and private sector in Kerala and number of persons employed, sector-wise (as on 31.3.1998) is as under :-

Sector	Number of mills	Number of persons employed
Public (Central)	4	2,950
Public(State)	9	4,183
Private	19	9,860
Co-op.	4	2,385
Total	36	19,378

- (c) No mill has been closed due to financial crunch in Kerala.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) and (f) A statement is attached.

Statement

Minister for Industries and Social Welfare, State Government of Kerala has requested assistance in respect of following items for rejuvenating the textile industry in Kerala:-

- (i) Reintroduction of granting interest free excise loan to sick units.
- (ii) Availability of credit at lower rate of interest at peak season.
- (iii) Rephasement of dues against long term loan:- To allow moratorium against repayment of term loans to deserving mills.

- (iv) Ensuring availability of quality cotton at fair prices.
- (v) Reduction in Hank Yarn Obligation.
- (vi) Extension of Technology Upgradation Fund to Spinning Mills.
- (vii) Extension of NRF to State Public Sector Units.

Items (i), (ii) and (iii) have been taken up with Ministry of Finance which are concerned with them. In addition, Ministry of Textiles has convened a series of meetings (including one chaired by Textile Minister) with representatives of banks and financial institutions and those of industry for discussing the problem of adequate availability of credit to textile sector. Banks and financial institutions have indicated extension of a helpful hand to the industry. Minister of State (Revenue, Banking and Insurance) also met the representatives of textile associations and representatives of banks and financial institutions to consider the working capital requirements of textile industry.

As regards (iv), Government does not intervene in cotton market unless the prices of raw cotton fall below the minimum support price.

As regards (v), Government have discontinued the linkage of cotton yarn exports and fulfilment of Hank Yarn Obligation for yarn sold in the domestic tariff area.

A formal decision to the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is yet to be received, although beneficiary sectors have been identified and the guidelines for implementing the scheme would be worked out immediately after receipt of the decision.

As regards (vii), the matter has been taken up with Ministry of Industry as they are concerned with it.

Development of Tourism in U.P.

1072. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for further expansion and development of tourism industry in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) Development of

tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the State Governments and the availability of funds. The Union Ministry of Tourism sanctioned financial assistance for various projects to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years as under :-

Year	Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	31.10
1996-97	237.78
1997-98	221.10

Subsidies on Export Credit

1073. DR. RAVI MALLU :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for sanctioning subsidies on export credit announced by the Union Government on June 11, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) the date from which this scheme is proposed to be operative; and

(d) the extent to which it will be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India had decided, to extend to exporters credit under a special facility from 12.6.98 to 31.12.99. Under this scheme, the banks were to provide exporters Rupee Credit at 6.5% per annum for their exports over and above the level achieved in exports by them during the financial year April 1997 to March 1998. The interest rate of 6.5% per annum was to be applicable for Pre-shipment Rupee Credit upto a period of 180 days and Post-shipment Rupee Credit upto a period of 90 days. This scheme was subsequently withdrawn by the Reserve Bank of India, after discussions with Banks and exporters, because it was felt that it might be operationally difficult to calculate incremental exports, on which this scheme was based.

Infrastructure Status for Coal Industry

1074. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give infrastructure status for coal industry;

(b) whether the Government have announced any package of financial incentives and concessions to boost investment in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir. However there is a proposal to extend to coal industry some of the financial incentives and concessions, which are being allowed to the infrastructure sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Frauds in Banks in Rajasthan

1075. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of frauds, embezzlement and misappropriation cases found in nationalised and private banks in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether such cases were probed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of persons involved in such cases and the action taken against the officials found guilty; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that State-wise data on frauds in public sector banks is not complied by them. However, the number of frauds reported by public sector banks to the RBI for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 and the action taken during these years against employees for their involvement in frauds are given below :-

	1995	1996	1997
1. No. of frauds	1890	1954	1796
2. Amount involved (in crores)	115.51	319.38	290.03
3. No. of employees convicted	33	46	57
4. No. of employees awarded major/minor penalty	1160	1207	1486