

envisaged earlier could not be found feasible. The CHP at Chinakuri Colliery is capable to handle 0.7 MT of coal annually but is under utilised due to low production of coal at this Mine.

(e) An expenditure of Rs.4.18 crores has been incurred on construction of Dhemomoin CHP. The equipments procured have been gainfully utilised at other places. Other structural elements are also being utilised in other CHPs/installations.

(f) and (g) Due to unforeseen and difficult Geo-Mining conditions the desired levels of production could not be achieved in some projects. This has led to under utilisation of some CHPs and foreclosure of one CHP. No responsibility has been fixed on any individual for this.

Funds to Shri Bharathi Mills

2267. SHRI S. ARUMUGHAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to make the payment of dues to Shri Bharathi Mills in Pondicherry which is under the control of N.T.C.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the above mill is unable to pay arrears of electricity bill to the State Government and received notices of disconnection of electricity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Government is releasing funds as budgetary support to all the mills under NTC including Sri Bharathi Mills in Pondicherry.

(c) and (d) Electricity dues amounting to Rs.123.91 lakhs for the period 1995-96 are payable by Sri Bharathi Mills to the State Government. Due to severe financial constraints of the mill, the Electricity Department, Government of Pondicherry is being requested not to disconnect the power supply and to accept payment in easy instalments.

Grants to J & K

2268. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the grants provided to Jammu and Kashmir for security related matters alongwith the brief account of these matter during each of the last three years and also during the current year,

(b) the grants provided for relief, rations etc. for the Kashmiri migrants during the said period; and

(c) the demand projected by the State Government for the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Details of the claims made by the State

Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the releases made to them during the three years, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows:

Years	(Rs. in Crores)			
	Security related Expenditure		Relief to migrants	
	Claim	Released	Claim	Released
1995-96	142.69	143.26	26.03	24.43
1996-97	151.99	141.96	30.44	30.44
1997-98	249.52	139.96	33.84	26.24

During the current year (1998-99), an amount of Rs.75.00 crores has so far been released as advance to the State Government for meeting the Security Related Expenditure.

In addition to the releases detailed above, Rs.38.74 crores in 1995-96, Rs.93.03 crores in 1996-97 and Rs.15.20 crores in 1997-98 were released as additional SRE for elections in Jammu & Kashmir. Also a sum of Rs.6.60 crores was released for improvement in migrant camps during 1996-97.

Security Related Expenditure relates to expenditure on items such as carriage of Constabulary, materials and supplies, purchase of vehicles, payment of rent for accommodation of security personnel, security works, airlifting charges etc.

FDI in Cigarette

2269. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
 SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
 SHRI K.S. RAO :
 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
 SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
 SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO :
 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
 SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV :
 SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
 SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :
 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :
 SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :
 DR. SANJAY SINH :
 SHRI GIRAJALA VENKATA SWAMY NAIDU :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Union Government propose to allow 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Cigarette/Tobacco Industry and other such non-priority sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of proposal pending in this regard with the Government at present;

(d) whether such proposals were opposed at any stage;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether workers' interests have been kept in view while allowing such proposal;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on tendu and bidi workers; and

(h) the plan chalked out by the Government for resettlement of workers likely to be affected due to new proposals?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The existing guidelines for consideration of FDI proposals by FIPB do not stipulate any ceiling on the extent of foreign equity participation in sectors pertaining to consumer non-durables, which include cigarettes. However, as there has been no precedent of 100% FDI approval in cigarettes so far, it was felt necessary to clarify the position vide Press Note No.11 (1998 series) dated 27th August, 1998, that proposals for manufacture of cigarette with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% will also be considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) subject to the provisions relating to compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. This has been done with a view to lending greater transparency in decision making.

(c) The only proposal received so far is from M/s Rothmans of Pall Mall (International) Limited. U.K.

(d) and (e) Several representations both in favour and against the proposal have been received inter-alia from Members of Parliament, trade unions, tobacco growers, bidi workers etc. While representations against the proposal have been received on grounds such as health hazard, unemployment of bidi workers, unfair competition to the domestic cigarette industry and negative revenue implications for the Government; the representations in favour of the proposal highlight issues such as competitive price for tobacco growers, benefit to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa & Karnataka, foreign exchange earnings etc.

(f) to (h) The proposal is still under consideration of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and a final view on it will be taken only after due consideration of all relevant issues.

[Translation]

Mukherjee Committee on Mine Accidents

2270. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mukherjee Committee constituted to examine the accidents occurred in Gaslit and mine of BCCL has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further action being taken on the basis of this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Madam.

The Committee has submitted its report to the Government in the Ministry of Labour on 29-6-1998.

(b) and (c) The recommendation made in the report are under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Expansion of PMRY

2271. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to expand the scope of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana to cover horticulture, piggery, fishing, small tea garden etc. under group financing with subsidy component of 15% and the age limit revised to 40 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress of implementation;

(c) the number of people belonging to SCs/STs benefitted under PMRY during each of the last three years, State-wise, particularly in North Est region; and

(d) the allocation of funds under the scheme and the estimated target of coverage to the unemployed during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana aims to assist educated unemployed youth in setting up micro-enterprises. The assistance is provided by way of bank loan, subsidy, training etc. The scheme targets youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years for setting up micro-enterprises in industry, service & business sectors in the country as a whole. Subsidy is provided @ 15% subject to a maximum of Rs.7,500/-.

For the North East since the year 1997-98 activities such as horticulture, piggery, fishing, small tea gardens etc., so as to cover all economically viable activities have been included. Upper age limit has also been relaxed to 40 years for individual as well as for a group. Family income eligibility has been revised to Rs.40,000/- per annum for parents as well as for the beneficiary and his/her spouse separately, for the North East Region.

(b) and (c) The details showing State-wise overall achievement as well as achievement for SC/ST for the country as a whole including the North Eastern Region for the last 3 years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.