

Such approvals are inclusive of projects involving FDI. Therefore, the employment projections made in LOIs or the IEMs are indicative of the employment likely to be generated as a result of Government's New Industrial Policy, 1991, including the Policy on foreign investment. During the entire post policy period (i.e. August, 1991 to December, 1998), 41220 IEMs/ LOIs/EOWs were filled envisaging investment of Rs.815057 crore, employment opportunities for over 72.89 lakh persons.

Tea Gardens

3719. SHRI ANAND PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the tea estates managed by the Tea Trading Corporation of India in West Bengal have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the name of those tea estates along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal for revamping these estates and ensure their smooth functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.(TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of State Trading Corporation is a loss making company. The Company owns four tea gardens located in West Bengal and one tea garden in Assam. TTCI is facing an acute financial crunch with an estimated liability around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.97. The Corporation is presently engaged with the following three options :

- (i) Outright sale of the shares of the Corporation;
- (ii) Bifurcation of the existing company in case (i) is not found possible; and
- (iii) STC to initiate liquidation proceedings in case option (i) and (ii) above are not found practicable.

[Translation]

Loan to Encourage Small and Cottage Industries

3720. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to simplify the conditions of providing loan for encouraging small and cottage industries is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the subsidy given to the women belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for small and cottage industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) It has been the endeavour of the Government to simplify the conditions of providing loan for encouraging small and cottage industries. In pursuance of the Seven Point Action Plan initiated in 1995-96 for improving flow of credit to small scale sector, measures have been taken for simplification of procedural formalities by the banks. The loan application form for loans upto Rs.2 lakhs has been simplified. The High Level Committee on credit to SSI (Kapur Committee) appointed by the Reserve Bank of India has also recommended various measures in its report submitted in June 1998 for improving credit delivery system and simplification of procedures for providing bank finance to the small sector. Some of the important recommendations accepted and under implementation by banks are :

- (i) Delegation of more powers to branch managers to grant ad-hoc limits.
- (ii) Freedom to banks to decide their own norms for assessment of credit requirement.
- (iii) Enhancement in the limit for composite loans from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs.

(c) and (d) There is reservation of 22.5% for SC/ST, 27% for OBC under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) scheme and preference is also given to women in the sanction of the loan for starting self-employment ventures. Subsidy is paid at 15% of the project cost or Rs. 7,500 whichever is less. Reserve Bank of India does not maintain data on subsidy amount paid to women belonging to SC/ST.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission provides 30 per cent margin money under Margin Money Scheme to women entrepreneurs including SC/ST for setting up village industries.

[English]

Losses in Showrooms of NTC

3721. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many showrooms run by National Textile Corporation are suffering losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to close down those showrooms which are suffering losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) NTC Group is having 332 showrooms out

of which 220 were in losses as on 31.3.1999. A statement of State-wise details for the last three years is given in Statement.

(c) to (e) The subsidiary corporations have instructed by NTC (HC) to review the performance of each showroom from time to time and take decision regarding their closure.

Statement

State-wise List of Loss Making Showrooms

Sl.No.	State	As on		
		31.3.97	31.3.98	31.3.99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	7	7
2.	Assam	3	2	1
3.	Bihar	12	13	15
4.	Gujarat	0	3	3
5.	Haryana	2	2	2
6.	Karnataka	0	22	22
7.	Kerala	0	16	15
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	1
9.	Maharashtra	0	2	3
10.	Orissa	4	4	5
11.	Punjab	1	1	1
12.	Tamil Nadu	22	53	56
13.	Uttar Pradesh	49	46	36
14.	West Bengal	47	49	52
15.	UT/Pondicherry	0	0	1
Total		148	223	220

[Translation]

Posting of Junior Overmen

3722. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta has given its verdict on November 9, 1998 to appoint the selected candidates to the post of Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Limited whose interview was held in November, 1997 after bringing out the result within one month;

(b) if so, whether the selected candidates have been appointed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in their appointment;

(d) whether the company has held the interview for the said post while about 194 overmen were surplus in the company in 1995;

(e) if so, the justification behind holding the interview;

(f) whether the Coal Company has filed an appeal in the Double Bench against this verdict;

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

(h) the steps being taken by the coal company to appoint the selected candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) In the matter of Writ Petition No.1416 of 1998 filed by Shri Rajender Prasad Rawani vs-Coal India Limited and others (including ECL) in the High Court of Calcutta on 9.11.98, the Hon'ble Court passed the following order:

"Having regard to the facts, I dispose of this application by directing the respondents concerned to intimate to the petitioner within a month from date the result of the interview and if the petitioner has been found to be successful, appropriate steps may be taken for offering employment to the petitioner on such basis."

Since the above orders was delivered ex-parte the management of ECL preferred an appeal in the Divisional Bench and the Hon'ble Court after its final hearing on 11.2.99 was pleased to dispose of the stay application inter-alia directing ECL not to recruit any junior overman without leave of the Court or untill disposal of the appeal. The matter is still subjudice.

(d) and (e) ECL had notified the vacancies for the post of Jr. Overman in the year 1994-95 based on the then exercise carried out in relation to requirement of statutory personnel in existing mines and new projects likely to come up. But the re-assessment carried out in 1998-99 indicated that ECL was facing the problems of financial crunch and surplus manpower in the company. The surplus manpower of overman was due to shrinkage of existing mines and reduction of requirement of statutory manpower.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) At present ECL is facing the problem of acute financial crunch and large surplus manpower including overmen. Fresh induction of manpower is, therefore, not possible.

(h) Till the matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Court, no further action can be taken by ECL.