

**Statement****Amount Released and Beneficiaries covered under Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Scheme	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Amt. released	No. of beneficiaries covered	Amt. released	No. of beneficiaries covered	Amt. released	No. of beneficiaries covered
1.	Project Package Scheme	1779.16	50847	3942.75	64989	3686.81	78820
2.	Thrift Fund Scheme	259.14	175694	390.47	213191	352.55	160666
3.	Group/New Insurance Scheme	70.01	211504	75.88	166885	98.86	214299
4.	Development of Exportable products and their Marketing	250.00	*	468.91	*	335.00	*

\* During the last three years, assistance has been extended to 50 agencies/organizations to develop exportable products, building production capabilities, marketing etc. The overall exports of cotton handloom increased for Rs. 1491.32 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1859.53 crores in 1997-98.

*[Translation]***Corruptions in Setting up of Coal Handling Plants**

3870. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI :

DR. RAMCHANDRA DOME :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary of his Ministry held a meeting on February 12, 1999 with the leaders of all trade unions;

(b) if so, the details of points raised in the discussion;

(c) whether the leaders of the trade unions drew his attention towards the prevailing corruption in Khottadihi, Dhemen, Sonapur, Bazari, Jhanjhra and Satgram Collieries with regard to setting up of Coal handling plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The Secretary, Ministry of Coal participated in the meeting of Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) of Eastern Coalfields Limited held on 12.2.1999 at Kunustoria Area office of Eastern Coalfield Limited where leaders of Trade Unions were also present.

(b) to (e) The salient points raised in the discussion were basically related to continuous deteriorating conditions including acute financial crunch resulting in erosion of net worth of ECL threatening its survival and measures such as immediate closure of 20 uneconomic mines, one time separation of workers above 55 years of age, 15% increase in productivity against existing wages etc. amongst others, were suggested to the union representatives for revival of ECL.

The Trade Union representatives, however, did not agree to the above suggestions and suggested for increase in

import duty to discourage import of coal, reduction in railway freight, stoppage of pilferage of coal/illegal mining. CIL to be made a unitary company, provision of financial assistance by the Government, realisation of outstanding dues, reduction in cess/royalty rates etc. and other related issues of some of the Areas.

*[English]***Funds Through Disinvestment**

3871. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Public Sector Undertakings selected for disinvestment during 1999-2000;

(b) the target set for the said period;

(c) the details of the phased programme of disinvestment finalised by the Government;

(d) The details of the recommendations made by the Disinvestment Commission; and

(e) the reasons for delay in implementation of the recommendations of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to disinvest certain portion of Government held equity in CONCOR, GAIL, EIL, IOC, MFIL, IPCL and BALCO to partially achieve the target of raising Rs. 10000 crores through disinvestment during 1999-2000. No phased programme of disinvestment has been finalised as the disinvestment is done keeping in view the market conditions.

(d) and (e) The Disinvestment Commission has so far made specific recommendations in respect of 45 PSUs. These recommendations are processed in consultation with the Administrative Ministries for obtaining the Government decision in such recommendations. The actual implementation is done keeping in view the market conditions, as a result of which sometimes the delays occur.

#### Production of Rubber

3872. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present production of natural rubber in the country and especially in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government are aware that even the bench price on rubber has not protected the interests of rubber growers;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the prevailing situation is likely to lead to complete annihilation in the rubber cultivation; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures are being taken to save this sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) During 1997-98, the production of rubber in the country was 5.84 lakh tonnes out of which 5.42 lakh tonnes was produced in Kerala State. The production of rubber during 1998-99 in the country is estimated at 6.10 lakh tonnes.

(b) to (d) The decline in prices of Natural Rubber is due to industrial recession. In order to protect the interests of the rubber growers, Govt. of India have taken a number of remedial measures besides fixing the Benchmark Price. These measures are:

- (i) market intervention operation through STC to procure rubber on Govt. Account;
- (ii) to sell the procured rubber to the holders of Advance Licence;
- (iii) suspension of import of rubber through Advance Licence;
- (iv) prescribing a minimum c.i.f. value ceiling on import of used/retreaded tyres; and
- (v) revision of Benchmark Price of Natural Rubber.

Further, the situation in this sector is being monitored on a regular basis.

#### Import of Coal

3873. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any data about the Coal imported annually by various sectors;

(b) if so, the total quantum of Coal imported annually by them, sector-wise, indicating the grades of coal imported so far and the per tonne cost of such coal;

(c) whether the production cost of that coal is much higher in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to reduce the production cost;

(e) whether the coal industry is badly hit by huge quantity of cheaper coal imports made by various sectors;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Coal India Limited has prepared a plan to face the challenges of imported coal in Indian market and sluggish coal demand from power and steel sector;

(h) if so, details thereof; and

(i) the details of steps being taken/proposed to be taken to discourage the cheaper coal imports and ensure healthy growth of coal industry and also to improve the demand of indigenous coal in power, steel, cement and fertilizers sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Since coal is under open general licence, this Ministry does not monitor the import of coal. However, the total quantity of coal imported in the country during the last three years as per available information with Ministry of Coal is as under :

Year	Import (In million tonnes)			Value
	Coking	Non-Coking	Total	
1995-96	9.37	3.14	12.51	US\$925.6 million
1996-97	9.78	4.53	14.31	Rs. 3532.00 crores (Approx)
1997-98	10.65	6.56	17.21	Rs. 4422.30 crores (Approx)

The sector wise break-up of imported coal, grades and cost of imported coal per tonne is not available in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) The cost of domestic coal at pitheads is probably the lowest in the World. However, the cost to the consumer is higher owing to rail freight and high level of royalty and other levies on domestic coal as compared to imported coal.

(e) to (i) Yes, Sir. Domestic coal is higher price than