

Import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks

3336. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the importers of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks take full advantage of the fall in the value of the country's rupee by doing forward booking of dollars whereas the SSI units in this trade can not adopt such practice because of their limited resources; and

(b) if so, the action being contemplated by the Government to stop forthwith such forward booking of dollars by the importers of ROB in order to make the level of playing field equal with the manufacturer importers with a view to save the interest of SSIs and Tiny Industries engaged in this trade.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Forward booking of foreign exchange transactions protects the importers from losses arising from unexpected volatility in the exchange rate. In view of this all importers are normally encouraged to go in for forward booking.

Land Occupied by Shalimar Tar Plant

3337. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas occupied by the Shalimar Tar Plant in the Lodna Area of BCCL and its value;

(b) whether till 1990 the management of BCCL maintained that the land did not belong to BCCL and so reported the Government;

(c) if so, whether now it has been proved that the land belongs to BCCL;

(d) whether this truth has been discovered and pointed out by the workers of the Plant; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken to reward the workers and punish the officials giving wrong reports earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The total area occupied by the Shalimar Tar Plant in the Lodna Area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited is 13.50 acres. The value of the land as per rate notified by the Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad has been assessed as Rs. 8,91,000.

(b) and (c) in the year 1982 Bharat Coking Coal Limited had informed the Ministry that the land over which the premises of Shalimar Tar Plant situated was owned by M/s. Shalimar Tar Plant and not by Lodna Colliery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. This stand was based on the fact that Bharat Coking Coal Limited at that time did not have in its possession the relevant papers/documents disclosing the ownership of the said land within Mouza Lodna in favour of Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

Subsequent search for the relevant documents revealed that the land in question as recorded and owned by the erstwhile Colliery, namely, the Lodna Colliery Company Ltd. (1920). The said Lodna Colliery Company upon nationalisation of Coking Coal Mines in 1972 had vested in the Central Government and thereby in the Government Coal Company i.e. Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

(d) and (e) The claim that the workers of Shalimar Tar Plant discovered the truth and pointed it out to the management is not correct. The fact remains that the Bharat Coking Coal Limited on its own searched the records, which revealed that the land over which Shalimar Tar Plant is located, was owned by M/s Lodna Colliery Company Limited.

[Translation]

Bank Loans to Farmers in Bihar

3338. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed to cooperative, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks to the Small and marginal farmers in Bihar during each of the last three years, and till date;

(b) whether any irregularities have been detected at the time of sanctioning the loans;

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(d) the total amount of loan recovered during the said period; and

(e) the steps being taken to simplify the procedure of bank loan to the farmers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), loans disbursed by Co-operative banks, commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in Bihar including loans