

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) Though no target for overall industrial production was fixed for 1996-97 overall industrial growth was expected to be in double digit. As per the information available the overall industrial growth in April-January, 1996-97 was 7.5%. Deceleration in industrial growth has been mainly due to under performance in crude petroleum, power, fertilizer and consumer durable sectors. Sector specific strategy has already been initiated to remove the constraints in the under performing sectors. The Credit Policy announced recently by RBI is also expected to provide further impetus to industrial growth. Government has also proposed initiatives in Union Budget, 1997-98 for accelerated industrial growth.

[Translation]

#### Artificial Yarn

5517. SHRI N. J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether there has been decline in the export of artificial yarn from the States including Gujarat particularly from the tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this decline; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of artificial Yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) State-wise export statistics are not maintained. However, India's overall exports of rayon filament yarn have declined from Rs. 105.34 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 65.68 crores in 1996-97. The decline is mainly attributed to production constraints, inter-alia due to the problem of pollution.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost export of textile items, including rayon filament yarn, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

#### Export of Textiles

5518. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for the export of textiles during 1996-97;
- (b) whether this target has been achieved; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the facilities being given to exporters to encourage the export of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) A target of US \$ 11,800 million had been fixed for the exports of textiles (including handicrafts, jute and coir) during 1996-97. The achievement against the target has been US \$ 11839.13 million (provisional).

In order to boost the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

#### Production of Core Industrial Sectors

5519. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been decline in the production of core industrial sector in the country during 1996-97 as compared to the previous year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government to the effect on the general industry as a result of decline in the production of the core industrial sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Six infrastructure industries, viz., electricity, coal, crude petroleum, saleable steel, petroleum refinery products and cement registered a growth of 3.2% during 1996-97 as compared to a growth of 7.9% in the corresponding period of last year. The decline in the production of infrastructure sector has been due to under performance in mainly crude petroleum and power sectors.

(c) Development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and communication is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through de-regulation of production and distribution is expected to provide added stimulus. Foreign investment in these sectors is also encouraged to supplement domestic resources. An Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5000 crores, has also been set up to finance infrastructure projects.

[English]

#### Coal Mafia

5520. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases registered by CBI against in Coal Mafia in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the details of cases processed during the last three years and outcome of investigation alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) the details of pending cases and the reasons for delay; and

(d) the details of action taken by the Government to curb the growing activities of coal mafias and result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Appointment of Judges

5521. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to appoint some more judges with a view to settle the delays in the court work due to engagement of several judges in cases of corruption etc. and piling of other cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Judge strength of High Courts is reviewed once in three years and the next review is due in 1998. While there is no proposal to create new posts, action is under way to fill up existing vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

[English]

### Growth rate in Export and Import

5522. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of export and import during each of the last three years and the resultant trade deficit;

(b) the target set and achieved during the eighth Plan period;

(c) the target set for Ninth Plan period; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure achievement during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the DGCI&S data, exports imports and trade deficit for the last three years is as under:

US \$ Million

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (P)
Imports	28654	36678	38548
Exports	26330	31797	33106
Trade Deficit	-2324	-4881	-5442

(b) and (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan document envisaged a growth rate of 13.6% per annum in real terms for exports of goods during the Plan period. As per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the export growth rate during Eighth Plan is placed at 11.4% per annum and for the Ninth Plan, export growth rate per annum of 14.5% has been visualised under accelerated growth scenario.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policies and procedures, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of export infrastructure, and enhancing the quality and competitive edge of Indian products.

### Fire in Coai Mines

5523. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines fields under fire at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of people affected in view of the various problems of the fire; and

(c) the measures taken to extinguish the fire and save the lives of the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Isolated but controlled fire exists in 99 coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL). There is no case of fire existing in any mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). State-wise break-up of mines under CIL where such fire is persisting is as under:-

State	No. of mines where fire exists
Bihar	74
West Bengal	16
Orissa	1
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	1