

(c) if so, the reasons therefor :

(d) whether the Government propose to promote labour oriented technique in these industrial units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As on 31.3.1996 upto which period only information is available, 165 central industrial public sector undertakings had a total of 17.52 lakhs employees. The PSU-wise number of employees have been indicated in Statement No. 28 of Public Enterprises Survey for 1995-96 laid on the Table of the House on 5.5.97.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The reasons for decline in number of employees in PSUs can generally be attributed to superannuation, VRS and other mode of separation, etc.

(d) and (e) Promotion of labour oriented technique is an enterprise specific process and guided by broader policies and objectives of the respective PSUs, besides other conditions like the economic viability and feasibility, the types and categories of industries they are operating in and the availability of skilled labour force in respective fields.

[Translation]

Power Plants

6608. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal based power plants in Maharashtra, plant-wise;

(b) whether coal supply to those plants is delayed due to which power generation is affected; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken by the Government to ensure direct and early supply of coal to those plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Nine coal based thermal power stations are now in operation in the State of Maharashtra. They are—

1. Chandrapur TPS
2. Paras TPS
3. Khaperkheda TPS
4. Nasik TPS
5. Koradih TPS

6. Bhusawal TPS

7. Trombay TPS

8. Dahanu TPS

9. Parli TPS

(b) No, Sir. Coal supplies to the power stations of Maharashtra are made as per the linkages sanctioned by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term) within the overall constraints of availability of coal, transportation, unloading facilities of the power stations and timely payment for coal supplies.

(c) Highest priority is accorded for movement of coal to thermal power stations in the country including those in the Maharashtra State. Coal supplies to the power houses are monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Group and remedial measures are taken to increase the supply of coal, wherever found necessary.

[English]

NIFT Branch

6609. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for setting up of branch of NIFT;

(b) the details of new branches of NIFT proposed to be opened during 1997-98, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to the Union Government to set-up a branch of National Institute of Fashion Technology in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The criteria adopted for setting up a NIFT branch is the potential of employment at the professional level in the ready-made garment industry and the textile industry at the relevant centre.

(b) During 1997-98, it has been decided to start a new branch of NIFT at Bangalore.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala has requested for the establishment of a branch of the NIFT at Thiruvananthapuram.

(e) Several State Governments, including Kerala have been requesting the Ministry of Textiles to set up centres of NIFT in their States. It is not proposed to set up any new branch of NIFT except at Bangalore during 1997-98.

Export of Pepper

6610. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of pepper exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997;

(b) the total quantity of pepper produced during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of pepper due to damage of crop in the international market during this year;

(d) if so, whether India can export pepper which has a comfortable supply position in the country to earn more foreign exchange;

(e) if so, the total quantity likely to be exported during 1997-98; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to increase production and export of pepper in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of the total exports of black pepper including pepper powder during the last 3 years are given below :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	35,371	225.87
1995-96 (P)	24,223	181.84
1996-97 (E)	47,770	416.52

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta,

Spices Board, Cochin

(b) Statewise details of production of pepper during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given below :-

State	(In Tonnes)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Karnataka	790	760	910
Kerala	49850	59260	59930
Tamil Nadu	600	640	670
Pondicherry	NEG	NEG	NEG
Andamans	80	80	80
Total	51320	60740	61590

Source : Dte. of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

(c) Though no official figures are available there are reports of lesser production this year in Indonesia and Brazil.

(d) and (f) Some of the steps taken by Government to increase the production and export of pepper include :-

- (i) Abolition of core on export of pepper (Except green pepper and brine) to enhance its price competitiveness in the overseas markets;
- (ii) Implementation of Brand Promotion Schemes like Logo Promotion, grant of Spice House Certificate as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products;
- (iii) Setting up of laboratories for testing of products, technology transfers, process upgradation and product development.

During the 8th Plan a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for development of Spices was implemented for increasing production and productivity of various spices with an outlay of Rs. 125 crores. Under this scheme, measures such like production and distribution of quality planting material, plant protection measures, area expansion, and intensive cultivation practices were being implemented. It is proposed to continue the above programmes during 9th Plan with increased outlay and wider area of operation.

(e) The export projections for the year 1997-98 have not been formulated. The exports will depend upon the international demand and supply positions, the prices in the international and domestic markets and consumer preferences.