

Industry, Commerce and External Affairs, among others RBI and many high officials of various economic ministries also participated in it. Representatives of various international corporations, policy makers of Central and State Governments, Chief Executive Officers of PSUs and leading Indian companies also took part in it. Foreign delegates included representatives of foreign governments and diplomats besides a number of leading foreign companies interested in investing in India.

The conference highlighted the investment opportunities in thrust sectors and other areas in India in the context of ongoing economic reforms and liberalisation and the emerging global economic. There were interactive sessions in which the foreign delegates sought and got clarifications from Ministers and senior Government officials regarding various issues and policy matters.

#### Import of Coconut and Other Coconut Items

2163. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to import value added products from coconut like coconut Cream/ milk and spray dried coconut milk powder;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the above decision would adversely affect the indigenous industries in Kerala;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to review the above decision and provide financial assistance for developing the indigenous industries for producing value added products from coconut; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Import of coconut cream and coconut milk powder has been permitted freely vide Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No.8(RE-96)/92-97 dated 21st August, 1996, after interministerial consultations with a view to widening the trade among the SAARC countries.

(d) and (e). Review of the Export and Import Policy is a continuous process and changes in it are made as and when considered necessary, in the public interest.

[Translation]

#### Withdrawal of Pass Scheme

2164. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw the existing pass book scheme; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the alternative arrangements made to compensate the losses to be suffered by the exporter as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Passbook Scheme has been introduced w.e.f. 1.4.95. The details of the scheme are given in Para 54 of the EXIM policy and para 114 of the Handbook of Procedures, Vol. 1 (RE-MARCH, 1996).

At present there is no proposal to withdraw the existing passbook scheme.

[English]

#### Salt Production in Gujarat

2165. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether 70% of salt is produced in Gujarat and supplied throughout the country;

(b) whether there is a demand for shifting the Salt Commissioner's office to Gujarat in order to see the production and supply of salt in the State;

(c) whether wagons for supply of salt are adequate in Gujarat to meet the demand; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gujarat contributes about 70% of the total salt produced in the country.

(b) There had been a consistent demand from the Government of Gujarat, Salt Manufacturers' Associations of Gujarat, etc. for shifting the Salt Commissioner's Headquarters Office to Gujarat. Considering the various aspects of the matter the Government had ordered for shifting of that Office to Gandhinagar (Gujarat) in October, 1994. However the All India Salt Department Employees' Union filed a Writ Petition in the Rajasthan High Court against the said orders and obtained a stay. The matter is now pending before the Hon'ble High Court and is therefore subjudice.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present there has been adequate supply of wagons for movement of salt from Gujarat.

(d) Question does not arise.

#### Liquidation of P.S.Us by BIFR

2166. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of P.S.Us recommended for liquidation by the BIFR as on date;

(b) whether Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) decision to liquidate some of the

PSUs has not been allowed to be appealed to Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the process of revamping of Public Sector Undertakings has not been proved successful; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that winding up has been recommended by it in respect of 8 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and 15 State Public Sector Undertakings upto 30.11.1996.

(b) and (c). The purport of the Question is not clear. Under Section 25(1) of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), any person aggrieved by an order of the BIFR made under SICA may, within 45 days from the date on which a copy of the order is issued to him, prefer an appeal to the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR).

(d) and (e). The action in regard to individual CPSU is to be taken by the respective CPSU in consultation with the administrative Ministry concerned.

#### Mixing of Chicory with Coffee

2167. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Chicory permitted to be mixed with Coffee under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the high percentage of chicory is mixed with coffee and sold as pure coffee;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Chicory is permitted to be used upto 49% in Coffee.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

#### Import of Gold

2168. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DALIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of the gold imported during each of the last three years; and

(b) the value of smuggled gold seized by the Customs during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). the estimated value of gold legally imported into the country and gold seized yearwise is as under :

(Estimated Value\*)  
(Rs. in lakhs)

Period	Legal Import of gold	Seizure of gold
1994-95	9,88,661	6080
1995-96	12,23,128	5720
1996-97 (till date)	9,05,970	3009

\* Figures are provisional.

#### Committee for Privatisation matters

2169. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for setting up of a professional non-official body for coordinating all matters relating to privatisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The Confederation of Indian Industry have suggested that it is essential to create a privatisation agency which should be attached to a Ministry reporting directly to the Cabinet. This agency should be led by competent managers and unfettered by traditional bureaucracy. No decision has been taken on the suggestion.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Industries in UP

2170. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any policy under which members of families of such farmers whose land is acquired for setting up of industries can be accommodated in such industries; and

(b) if so, the number of industries set up in Sonbhadra district of U.P. and the number of local people provided employment in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). State Govts. devise suitable policies in this regard.