

Diamonds from Russia

2762. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to buy diamonds from Russia;

(b) if so, whether any negotiation has been made with Russia in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) Indian manufacturers of cut & polished diamonds buy rough diamonds from various sources including Russia. Recently, a delegation from the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council had visited Russia for exchange of information in Gem & Jewellery sector.

Suspension of Officials of SBI

2763. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India had issued suspension orders of some senior executives allegedly involved in the National Fertilizers Ltd. scam and CRB Capital scam;

(b) if so, the number of such executives on whom suspension orders were served scam-wise;

(c) the number of senior executives from whom the suspension orders were lifted in case of each scam;

(d) the reasons for which the suspension orders were lifted, scam-wise;

(e) whether the orders were lifted even before the investigations by external agencies were completed; and

(f) if so, the reasons for lifting the orders, scam-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (f) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that the bank had placed four officials under suspension for irregularities in remittances for import of Urea by National Fertilizers Ltd. The Appellate Authorities in the bank to whom the concerned officials made their appeals against their suspension ordered the lifting of the suspension without prejudice to the disciplinary proceedings if any, which may be taken up after completion of investigation by the external investigating agencies. Though the bank's internal investigations have been completed, the bank has taken a view that any substantive disciplinary action in the case will be initiated only after receipt of investigation report from the external agencies.

In respect of irregularities relating to encashment at par of warrants issued by the CRB Capital Market Ltd., SBI has reported that three officials were placed under suspension. Following the strike by the Officers of SBI, their suspension orders were reviewed and it was decided by the Appellate Authorities to revoke the suspension after taking into account all the aspects of the case including pendency of CBI investigations and the appeals submitted by the officials against their suspension. Major penalty proceedings have been initiated against the concerned officials.

UNDP Grant for researches in Jute

2764. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major part of Rs. 80 crore grant received from the UNDP since 1990 has been spent for purposes other than conducting research in diversification of jute products;

(b) whether a high power team has been sent by the UNDP to enquire into gross violation of norms in the matter of utilisation of the said grant;

(c) if, so the details of the amount out of said grant towards research on jute development to various leading jute research institutes in the country and for payment to private jute mills and has been spent on foreign trips by officials of the Ministry for participation in trade fairs organised abroad; and

(d) the details of the research institutes and private jute mills which have received amount from the said grant during last eight years of UNDP Aid Programme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) A Statement-I indicating the amount released to various jute research institutes in the country towards research on jute development is enclosed.

Payment to private jute mills are not grants but in the form of loans. Statements indicating assistance given to private mills and entrepreneurs are given at Statements-II and III.

An amount of US \$ 19193 was spent for the foreign tours of two officials from the Ministry for project activities.

Statement-I**National Jute Development Programme Budget 1993-98**

(in US \$)

Sl.No.	Institution	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Total
1.	Bombay Textile Research Association - Polymer	271,926	373,004	132,097	702,252	138,163 487,452	7122 297	1350638
2.	Indian Jute Industries Research Assn. - Composites	453,834	706,159	138,895	487,452	29,722	0	1816062
3.	Jute Corporation of India	72,271	73,385	19,487	59,285	8,296	6705	239429
4.	South India Textile Research Association	343,685	233,191	57,133	1,192	93,775	0	725592
5.	Indian Jute Industries Research Association—Textiles	508,987	653,508	661,554	270,017	315,399	315399	2658278
6.	Ahmedabad Textile Industries Research Assn.	1,158,619	109,735	262,801	99,749	2,757	0	163661
7.	Programme Management Unit	386,332	305,301	341,747	262,807	2,040,60	223839	1724086
8.	Bombay Textile Research Association - Unproducts	762,913	96,745	(2,115)	1,667	353	0	859563
9.	PSG College of Technology	5	28,245	19,115	1,469,956	18,350	0	212672
10.	Institute of Jute Technology	0	1	4,103	294,697	36,072	5770	268498
11.	Wool Research Assn.	181,545	127,222	189,450	2,801	22,996	0	524014
12.	Jute Mfts. Dev. Council	530,963	(26,323)	420,204	240,567	272,645	87809	1525365
13.	Indian Institute of Packaging	13	8,880	182,180	121,951	3,012	0	316036
14.	Small Scale Jute Mills Complex	236,510	409,099	243,741	144	162,280	13,079	918,565
15.	Central Pulp & Paper Research Industries	18,670	697	0	0	0	0	19,367
16.	Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute—Tribeni Tissues	543	467,468	47,506	141,793	255,754	105,386	1018515
17.	Indian Jute Mills, Assn. Geojule	0	0	83,924	45,341	19,308	18,000	166,573
18.	Department of Economics	0	0	92,533	124,403	1,286	1,500	219,727
19.	Jute Handicrafts	0	0	135,961	87,806	473,676	65,153	762,656
20.	Jute Handlooms	0	0	71,099	69,014	69,460	77,000	286,573
21.	Indian Jute Mills Assn. Jute Bags.	0	0	0	1,706	0	0	1,706
22.	Technological Instt. of Textile & Sciences	0	0	135,051	135,979	34,558	3,782	309,370
23.	National Cente for Jute Diversification	0	0	53,112	128,121	1,216,295	2,08,900	1,606,128
24.	Indian Jute Ind. Research Assn. Machinery	0	0	0	0	0	1,94,000	1,94,000
25.	Deptt. of Biotechnology	0	0	0	137,302	293,912	68,786	500,000
26.	Indian Jute Ind. Research Assn. Steam Explosion	0	0	0	84,476	57,449	0	141,925
Total		4,926,316	3,568,318	3,290,238	3,643,876	3,543,876	1,335,108	2,00,0000

Statement-II**National Jute Development Programme
Assistance to Entrepreneurs—pre 1995**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Unit	Amount
1. Eastern Juwool	45.63
2. BCO Fabircs	46.36
3. Pioneer India	43.12
4. Arihant	44.58
5. Siddha	36.53
6. KLB	42.49
7. Champdany	239.49
8. NJMC	175.00
9. Uniproducts	237.50
10. Aspinwall	48.80
11. WB Plywoods	16.00
12. Aurobindo	111.81
13. Duroflex	59.32
14. Tribeni Tissues	90.00
15. Tipco	83.54
16. Fibre Composites	54.44
Total	1374.41

Statement-III**Assistance provided under Jute Entrepreneurs
Assistance Scheme**

Sl.No.	Name of Unit	NCJD's Loan Rs. in Lakhs
1	2	3
1.	Sri Laxmi Srinivasa	30.00
2.	Rishabh Juteex	30.00
3.	Ratnam Jute Pvt. Ltd.	30.00
4.	Sri Sitarama Jute Twine	30.00
5.	Eastern Ju-Wool Tex.	30.00
6.	Ganpati Yarn Products	14.44
7.	Manasha Industries	15.00
8.	Raja Textiles	2.65

1	2	3
9.	Indus Insul	48.00
10.	Hi Light Ind.	40.20
11.	Excel Composite	50.00
12.	Unique Ind.	13.99
13.	PMR Mach	11.20
14.	ARTFED	3.40
15.	Meghna Laminations	50.00
16.	Super Fibre Limited	30.00
17.	Sri Shara Sp. (Second Phase)	16.50
18.	Apex Yarn Pvt. Ltd.	30.00
19.	H.S.J. Concrete	8.10
20.	Chatterjee Jute	10.30
21.	Krishnaveni Jute	12.84
22.	Pavan Raj Enterprises	27.99
23.	S.K.S.N. Jute	30.00
24.	Debson Jute	15.00
25.	Jaatham Fabrics Limited	19.15
26.	Mala Saha	0.18
27.	Monica Handicrafts	0.43
28.	Sri Sai Lazmi Woolen	6.82
29.	OSCARD	3.50
30.	Ashoka Weav	15.00
31.	Allanta Modular	15.00
32.	Earthworth	0.47
33.	Karthick Textiles	15.00
34.	Mahamaya Spintex	23.00
35.	Sri Shara Spinners	11.19
36.	Zubeda Spinners	8.80
37.	Bholanath International	20.78
38.	Shree Prakash Textiles	30.00
39.	Jyothi Jute Mills	28.75
40.	Assam Jute Products	6.00
41.	S.K. Fibres Ent. P. Ltd.	16.70
42.	Varalaxmi Jute Mills	28.12
43.	Sitarama Laxmi Jute	30.00

1	2	3
44.	Kalpaturu Spinning Mills	30.00
45.	Standard Friction	22.15
46.	Coemcraft Industries	50.00
47.	J.K. Jute Mills	33.98
48.	Tikal Agro Board	26.80
49.	Yadagiri Durries	0.89
50.	Swami Tex.	10.70
51.	Hyderabad Apparels Co.	12.00
52.	Saraf Jutex	0.22
53.	Indigo Fashion Pvt. Ltd.	10.00
54.	B.N. Industries	0.45
55.	Pooja Udyog	5.10
56.	Bihar Handloom	3.22
57.	Shri Bibhas Sarkar	1.27
58.	Heebrai Tea Packers	2.04
59.	Jyothi Tex	0.66
60.	Southern Textiles	4.67
61.	Sankar-a-traders	2.87
62.	Roy Fabrics	0.63
63.	Soujanya Eco-Fabrics	2.65

[Translation]

Foreign Trade

2765. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries with which India's trade has registered an increase during the last financial year;

(b) the percentage of the said increase;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase trade relations with other countries also during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) As per the provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial

Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the major countries with which India's trade registered an increase during the last financial year and the percentage of the said increase in dollar terms are :

Country	% growth
Belgium	8.62
France	2.86
Greece	5.51
Ireland	26.98
Italy	5.04
Portugal	30.65
United Kingdom	4.72
Switzerland	105.82
Nepal	10.74
Australia	12.89
China	34.08
Hong Kong	1.42
Malaysia	5.98
United Arab Emirates	4.03
Israel	36.38
Egypt	102.74
South Africa	36.00
Canada	26.58
USA	0.23
Brazil	18.60
Russia	8.99
Rest of CIS Countries	34.04
South America	15.19

(c) to (e) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports through multi-lateral and bilateral initiatives. Periodic consultations during Joint Commission Meetings, exchange of trade delegations with countries bilaterally and participation in specialised trade fairs in important countries are steps constantly being taken to strengthen trade relations bilaterally with trading partners. Under the SAARC Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA), import duties are being brought down and non-tariff barriers are being removed to promote bilateral trade. In the medium-term strategy, a special directional focus is being given to our trade with emerging markets such as Latin America, CIS countries and Africa. India's exports to Latin America, Africa and CIS countries are growing at an enhanced rate as noted from the trade data.