

Power Project Proposals

2613. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has decided not to take up power project proposals which have failed to tie-up fuel linkage;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of power has made a policy decision that application for power generation was to be considered by the FIPB only after a tie-up has been made for fuel supply;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Board has rejected the proposal to induct one percent equity in the 520 MW cobra project in the absence of any coal linkage; and

(e) if so, the total proposals which the FIPB has scrapped due to failure of fuel linkage?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) considers power project proposals involving foreign investment in consultation with the Ministry of Power, who are the Administrative Ministry. The Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Coal (as the case may be) are consulted about the proposed fuel linkage.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Board has rejected the proposal seeking 100% foreign equity to develop the 520MW Coal fired power project in Korba in the absence of appropriate fuel linkage based on the comments of the Administrative Ministry.

(e) The FIPB has rejected four power project proposals in the absence of appropriate fuel linkage.

INDO-German Trade

2614. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which Indo-German trade have been established;

(b) whether there is a great potential for increasing bilateral trade between both the countries; and

(c) if so, the proposal mooted by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The main products being exported from India to Germany include various textiles items including garments and made ups; leather and leather goods; carpets; precious/semi precious stones and pearls; tea; jute; engineering goods; chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

The main items being imported into India from Germany include machinery of various types; electro-technical goods; chemicals and pharmaceuticals; iron and steel products; vehicles; precision instruments.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) It is the endeavour of the Government to expand trade relations with all countries including Germany. The steps being taken in this direction include preparation of market studies; publication of news bulletins giving commercial information about Germany; participation of Indian exporters in international trade fairs in Germany; exchange of business delegations; organization of promotional seminars on India in Germany; and interation with the agencies concerned in Germany both at government and trade/industry level. The 13th session of the Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi on 8-9 January, 1998, reviewed bilateral trade between the two countries and discussed further measures to increase it.

AG's Opinion on Sale of Coal by Captive Mines

2615. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought the Attorney General's opinion on a proposal to allow sale by captive mines to State Electricity Boards and other power companies;

(b) if so, whether any advice of the Law Ministry has also been sought by his Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Attorney General's views have been obtained; and

(d) if so, the extent to which they are likely to attract more investment in captive mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) As per the provisions of the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973 as amended in 1993, a company engaged in the business of generating power can mine coal for its own consumption. In a specific case a power company has proposed to mine coal through an associated captive coal mining company. The coal mining company pointed out that in certain situations the power company may not be in a position to accept coal from the coal mining company and in such circumstances in order to maintain the viability of the coal company it was required that the concerned State Electricity Board should purchase such coal. The advice of Ministry of Law was sought on the question whether in such circumstances the captive coal mine could be permitted to sell coal to the State Electricity Board. The advice of the Attorney General was also obtained through Ministry of Law on the matter and his advice has been received in the Ministry.

(d) While the sale of coal by captive coal mines to State Electricity Board in certain situations would reduce the risk for coal mining, the extent to which this will increase the investment in captive mines is not possible to determine.

Income Tax and Wealth Tax

2616. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of film artists, producers, directors against whom income tax/wealth tax demand exceeding Rs. 50,000 remained outstanding as on 1.4.1998;

(b) the amount outstanding against each person; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to collect the dues immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loss in N.T.C.

2617. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been formulated to bring the loss of National Textile Corporation at minimum level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to release any special package in the interest of their labourers; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Production activities in NTC group companies have had to be curtailed due to non-viability of their operations and lack of working capital. The increase in losses for the present is mainly due to increase in salary/wage bill and interest charges. NTC management have been advised to exercise economy in its expenditure and minimize the losses.

(c) and (d) Govt. is considering a revised package for the NTC Mills based on the BIFR norm of networth turning positive within the stipulated period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[English]

Export of Iron Ore

2618. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export of Iron Ore during 1996-97 was much higher as compared to earlier years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last seven years;

(c) the figures for the year 1997-98 and the projections for 1998-99 thereof; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned through export of Iron Ore during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Export of Iron Ore during the last 7 years as per DGCI&S statement are as under:

Years	US \$ mn
1990-91	584.63
1991-92	586.49
1992-93	360.24
1993-94	437.95
1994-95	413.14
1995-96	514.55
1996-97	483.49

(c) and (d) Exports during 1997-98 are US \$ 474.4 million.

Projections for 1998-99 are US \$ 569.3 million (tentative).

Transfers in Income Tax Department

2619. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:
DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Income Tax officials have been transferred recently affecting the ongoing investigations against a number of politicians; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS