

Pakistan
Bangladesh

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Import of Rice

1499. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAJNTH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian traders are importing rice from Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the quantity imported during each of the last three years and the rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) As per the current Export-Import Policy, common and coarse varieties of rice, and rice with more than 50% brokens is freely importable. As per the data available with Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, no rice was imported from Pakistan or Bangladesh till November, 1998.

Jessop and Company Limited

1500. SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any steps to turn Jessop and Company competitive with the Multinational Companies;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the various State Governments and Central Government Departments to reserve certain percentage of their orders for Jessop and Company, particularly for road rollers and cranes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (c) A BIFR sanctioned revival scheme is under implementation since 29.7.98. The scheme stipulates improvement in performance and competitiveness of the Company. Government has already released funds envisaged in the revival plan. Steps have been taken to provide other reliefs and concessions.

(d) to (f) No Sir. Government of India cannot issue such directions to State Governments. Order for purchase preference for Central PSUs is already in force.

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Investigation against JVG Group of Companies

1501. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has been investigating the case of J.V.G. Group of Companies and its products;

(b) if so, the present status of the case;

(c) whether the money lost by small investors has been recovered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. *Stock Market*

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Trading of Shares

1502. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items "NSE to stop trading in 59 shares" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated February 18, 1999;

(b) if so, the names of these companies; and

(c) the reasons for withdrawing trading in equity share from NSE?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE) has withdrawn 59 companies from dealing on the Exchange.

(b) The names of these companies are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The reasons for withdrawing these companies from dealing on the NSE are non-fulfilment of criteria for continuous trading under the 'Permitted to trade' category, non-announcement of book closure for a period of more than one year; and non-compliance on the other Exchanges and short notice for Book Closure/Record Date.