

however, no exports of Latex undertaken by Government to any country.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Closure of Birla Textiles, Swatantra Bharat Mills and DCM Silk Mills

5404. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of closure of Birla Textiles, Swatantra Bharat Mills and DCM silk mills functioning in Delhi have been closed since November, 1996 rendering thousands of employees jobless;

(b) whether the management of M/s Birla Textiles and other industries except Ayodhya Textiles Mills has not paid the salaries and additional retrenchment benefits of six years to the workmen;

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the management of the said mills and to ensure payment of salary and compensation to the women;

(d) whether the Government intend to move the Supreme Court of India for reviewing its decision dated December 31, 1996, permitting relocation of textile mills beyond NCR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) As per information available, M/s Birla Textiles and M/s Swatantra Bharat mills were closed on 30.11.1996 consequent upon an order of the Supreme Court. As regards DCM mills, the Government of Delhi permitted the mill to close down from 1.4.1989, vide its order dated 30.3.1989.

(b) and (c) As per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 8.7.96, M/s. Birla Textiles, Delhi informed the workmen that those who are willing to shift to the place of relocation, 'Baddi' (Himachal Pradesh) will be paid shifting bonus and those who are not willing to shift will be paid compensation as per rules, along with additional compensation equivalent to one year's wages. Out of 2522 workmen, 577 workers opted for final payment. 7 workers opted to shift to 'Baddi', and the management has paid shifting bonus to these workers. In the case of the remaining 1938 workers who have not responded to the offer made by the mill, in terms of Supreme Court directions the management is reported to have sent full and final payment through cheques to their home address, but these are stated to have been refused.

As regards M/s. Swatantra Bharat Mills, there were 2126 workers at the time of closure, i.e. on 30.11.96. It is reported that a substantial number of workers have been paid their shifting bonus.

(d) and (e) Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi filed a petition before the Supreme Court to review its order dated 31.12.96, submitting that industries which are

not relocated in National Capital Region (NCR) may be treated as closed and the workmen employed in these industries may be given compensation at par with industries which fail to relocate and decided to close. This petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Staff Harassment in ITDC Hotel

5405. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Women alleges rape, harassment by Hotel Kanishka colleagues" appearing in the Indian Express dated May 27, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether such incidents of harassment to working women in ITDC are quite common and the matter is hushed up with the help of its Vigilance and Security Division officials for their vested interests;

(d) the number of complaints of alleged harassments of all kinds to working women in ITDC have been received during the last three years ending May, 1998 along with action taken in each case; and

(e) whether Government are considering to punish the guilty officials especially the concerned officers who are fully responsible for the security of female staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The press report mentions about the repeated sexual harassment of a 24 year old woman employee of Kanishka Hotel of ITDC by certain colleagues over past two years and also that no action was taken by the Hotel Management on a complaint filed by her in August, 1996, in this regard.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Such incidents are very rare. ITDC has a strength of about 7900 employees and during the last three years only five complaints of alleged harassment to women employees were received. The complaints were examined, but a allegations were not substantiated in four out of the five cases. in the fifth case which pertains to the harassment of the women employee in Kanishka Hotel, mentioned in the Press Report; based on the investigation report, charge sheets for major penalty have been issued to two employees, one of whom has also been suspended; three senior officers have been issued advisory memos to be more careful and six employees have been admonished.

Clearance of Cheques by RBI

5406. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days required for clearance of RBI cheques deposited in the State Bank of India Branch located within the radius of one kilometre of Reserve Bank of India;