

Shortage of Hard Coke in Foundries in Calcutta

5157. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the byproduct (BP) hard coke scarcity has hit the foundries in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the reasons for this short-fall in hard coke production; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to make available to the foundries the BP hard coke?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c) Public Sector Integrated Steel Plants produce Hard Coke basically for their own internal requirements and not for sale. Though in the past, small quantities have occasionally been supplied to foundries by Rourkela (RSP) and Durgapur (DSP) steel plants, their increased internal requirements and usage of costly imported coal for producing coke, do not make it possible for them to make available by-product hard coke on a regular basis.

New Format of Balance Sheet of Nationalised Banks

5158. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has drawn up a new format of the balance sheet of nationalised banks;

(b) if not, when the same is likely to be done;

(c) when the Ghosh Committee submitted its recommendations in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for delay in implementation of the recommendation of the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) The Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India in 1982 to consider inter alia, changes in the formats of final accounts of the banks, under the Chairmanship of its Deputy Governor, Shri A. Ghosh (commonly known as Ghosh Committee), submitted its report in 1985. The Government and Reserve Bank of India have accepted the recommendations of the Committee with certain modifications. It has been decided to amend the formats of Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account of the banks to provide for greater transparency in the accounts of the banks. The modalities in this regard are being worked out by the Reserve Bank of India.

[Translation]

Demands of Himachal Gramin Bank Employees

5159. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any memorandum/representation from the Himachal Gramin Bank Employees Association regarding their problems and demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The memorandum of Himachal Gramin Bank Karamhari Sangh contained several demands such as grant of senior scale of pay to clerical staff as per State Government Rules, promotion of Junior Clerks as Senior Clerks, service benefits to Ex-servicemen, grant of officiating allowance and medical advance, conveyance loan facility etc. The matter had been discussed between the management of the Gramin Bank and the employees' representatives and a settlement was signed. Punjab National Bank, the sponsor bank of Himachal Gramin Bank have now reported that the Chairman of Himachal Gramin Bank has recently received another memorandum from Himachal Gramin Bank Karamchhari Sangh. The memorandum contains several demands which include implementation of revised pay scales as applicable to comparable posts in the Himachal Pradesh State Government, fixation of pay-scale of Senior Clerks, cancellation of transfer orders, consideration of transfer requests from staff, reinstatement of suspended employees etc. The issues involved are proposed to be discussed in a meeting between the management of Gramin Bank and representatives of the Karamchhari Sangh.

[English]

Import Licence Racket

5160. SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive import licence racket involving several crores of rupees in foreign exchange has been detected in the office of the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (JCCI&E), Bombay;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of forgery and manipulation involved in the issue of spurious licences;

(c) what were these import licences meant for;

(d) why this racket could not be detected earlier;

(e) the outcome of the investigation made into this racket and the penal action taken against the parties and delinquent officials involved; and

(f) the remedial measures being taken to prevent such frauds taking place in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) (a) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has reported large scale smuggling of cut and polished diamonds involving 43 firms.

(b) Cut and polished diamonds exported were smuggled back and re-exported to claim REP licences against such re-export. In some cases, REP licences have been claimed on the basis of fictitious exports and forged documents.

(c) Import licences were issued for import of rough diamonds.

(d) No such complaints were received earlier.

(e) Firms allegedly involved in the racket were placed under abeyance and the operation of their licences was suspended. Cases have also been referred to CBI. Involvement of the Government Officials in the alleged racket has not so far been established.

(f) Instructions have been issued to verify the genuineness of Bank certificates from the concerned Banks before issue of licences. Procedures have further been tightened to avoid recurrence of such frauds.

Loans Advanced by Banks

5161. SHRI A. K. A. ABDUL SAMAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total credit advanced by the nationalised banks to all applicants during 1989-90, bankwise;