

(b) the details of the PSUs short-listed for outright strategic sale, disinvestment, joint ventures;

(c) the details of progress made, so far, in this regard; and

(d) the details of the policy changes for effective rehabilitation of sick Central PSUs on sustainable basis and funds provided/proposed therefor during the current year and Ninth Plan period, particularly for units in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) As announced in the Budget Speech for 1998-99, the Government have decided to disinvest specified portions of equity from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and Container Corp. of India Ltd. (CONCOR). In respect of CONCOR, disinvestment of Government equity of 9 million shares has already been completed. In respect of other enterprises, action have already been initiated for effecting disinvestments.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment by foreign companies

48. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to allow steel, power, refinery and cellular business by foreign companies in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an agreement has been signed by some foreign firms with private sectors of India in Mumbai and Chennai for collaboration in the above fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) Sir, as per the existing policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permissible in most sectors, including Steel, Power, Refinery and Cellular Business. In the case of Steel, FDI upto 51% is covered under the automatic route operated by the RBI. Proposals involving foreign investment over

51% in this sector are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on a case to case basis. Foreign investment upto 100% is permissible under the automatic route in so far as the power sector is concerned provided the foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore. The Refinery Sector is also open to Foreign Direct Investment upto 49% but all the proposals in this sector require the approval of FIPB/Government. Similarly, in the case of Cellular Telephone Services, Foreign Direct Investment is permissible upto 49% and require FIPB/Government approval.

Several approvals for FDI in the above sectors have been granted, including approvals for setting up such projects in Mumbai and Chennai, details of which are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated, including the Parliament Library.

New Model Cars by Maruti-Suzuki

49. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether new models of Maruti cars are being brought out to compete with Santro, Matiz and Indica etc. in small car sector of the automobile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how does Maruti-Suzuki plan to take up the challenge of these new models?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL) is not a Government Company. The Board of Directors of MUL is, therefore, competent to take appropriate commercial decisions to meet the challenge from competitors, including inter alia introduction of new models of Maruti Cars at the appropriate time.

भारतीय सीमेंट निगम में कुप्रबंधन

50. श्री शिबू सोरेन: क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय सीमेंट निगम के 7000 कर्मचारियों का भविष्य, वहां व्याप्त कुप्रबंधन के कारण खतरे में है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या भारतीय सीमेंट निगम के कुल 11 कारखानों में से 6 को बंद कर दिया गया है और शेष 5 भी बंद होने के कगार पर हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में पूर्ण ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय सीमेंट निगम के कुल लाभ-हानि का वर्षवार ब्यौरा क्या है?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखबीर सिंह बादल): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। सीमेंट कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया को रुग्ण औद्योगिक कंपनी अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के तहत दिनांक 25.4.96 को बीआईएफआर को संदर्भित कर दिया गया था और बीआईएफआर ने पहले से ही सीमेंट कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया के लिए एक मसौदा पुनरुद्धार योजना तैयार कर ली है तथा इसे सभी संबंधितों को उनके विचार जानने हेतु दिनांक 12.6.98 को पारिचालित कर दिया है।

(ग) और (घ) जी नहीं। केवल तीन इकाइयाँ अर्थात् पांढर अकलतरा और चरखी दादरी में इन इकाइयों के अजैव्य होने के कारण उत्पादन को निदेशक मंडल के अनुमोदन से बंद कर दिया है।

(ङ.) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान उत्पादन, बिक्रिया तथा लाभ/हानि के ब्यौरे नीचे दिए गए हैं:-

वर्ष	उत्पादन (लाख मी० टन में)	बिक्रिया (करोड़ रुपये में)	लाभ(+)/ हानि (-) (करोड़ रुपये में)
1994-95	21.89	401.46	(-) 149.96
1995-96	19.56	434.54	(-) 115.04
1996-97	17.20	405.10	(-) 159.41
1997-98	9.85	240.93	(-) 97.54
(अनंतिम)			
1998-99	6.19	130.16	(-) 106.35
(अप्रैल-अक्तुबर, 98 अनंतिम)			

कागज आधारित लघु उद्योगों पर शुल्क लगाया जाना

51. श्री शिबु सोरेन: क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रद्दी कागज के आयात पर, पांच प्रतिशत के मूल शुल्क के कारण कागज और गत्ता बनाने वाली देश की लगभग 170 लघु उद्योग और अत्यंत लघु उद्योग इकाइयाँ बुरी तरह प्रभावित हो रही हैं, और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि पांच लाख टन की स्थापित क्षमता वाली 110 रद्दी कागज की मिलें बंद हो चुकी हैं

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) कागज के मिलों के बंद होने से संबंधित राज्य-वार तथा वर्ष-वार आंकड़े केन्द्रीय रूप से नहीं रखे जाते हैं। फिर भी, यह बताया जाता है कि रद्दी कागज को कच्चे माल के रूप में प्रयोग करने वाली लगभग 110 मिल, विभिन्न कारणों के कारण बन्द पड़ी हैं।

Industrial development of North East

52. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of steps taken/contemplated by Government to accelerate the pace of industrial development in the N.E. region in general and Assam in particular; and

(b) what has been/is the likely impact of each of these steps?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) To tackle the problem of industrial backwardness of NE region and attracting investment for setting up industrial units in the North East, a new industrial policy for the North Eastern Region was announced by the Government on December, 1997.

(b) With a view to promoting industrialisation, Nine Growth Centres are to be set up in the NE states including 3 for the state of Assam. Subsidy is provided under the transport subsidy scheme to reduce the extra transport cost and promote industrialisation of hilly, remote and inaccessible areas like North Eastern States. The Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) scheme for setting up infrastructural facilities in backward/rural areas of the country also includes North Eastern Region. Since inception of the Scheme till 31.3.98, transport subsidy amounting to Rs. 360 crore has been released to various States/UTs out of which Rs. 229 crore have been released for the North-Eastern Region which constitute 63% of the total releases under the scheme. The financing pattern in respect of IID centres in the North East is in the ratio of 4:1 between Government of India Grant and