

(d) if so, the main finding of the said report; and

(e) the government reactions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a)
No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question do not arise.

Industrial sickness in the country

*278. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that industrial sickness has

been a matter of serious concern for the country for over last two decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof, industry-wise, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to tackle the problem of industrial sickness?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest available report as at the end of March, 1996, the position of industrial sickness in the country and the outstanding bank credit is as follows:

Category	(RS. in crores)	
	No. of units	Outstanding Bank Credit
1. SSI Sick	262376	3721.94
2. Non-SSI Sick	1956	8823.19
3. Non-SSI Weak	418	1203.12
<hr/>		
TOTAL :	2,64,750	13,748.25

The industry-wise position of sickness indicates that industrial units in textiles, engineering, chemicals, iron & steel, paper and electrical sectors are the ones most affected.

A number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, are responsible for industrial sickness. Main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing, technology, etc.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to tackle the problem of industrial sickness which, inter alia, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks,

amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund, etc.

High cost of packaging in India

*279. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing and other agro based industry

has been suffering a grave disadvantage vis-a-vis international competitors but for the high cost of packaging;

(b) if so, whether packaging in India costs upto 50 per cent of the product packed;

(c) if so, how it compares with the international standards and costs; and

(d) the steps being taken to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) Growth of any industry including food processing and other agro based industries would depend on several factors such as quality of the products, competitive cost, sale price etc. Cost of packaging is one of the factor effecting the price.

(b) Packaging are of different types to suit the products packed and naturally the cost of packaging varies and is estimated to range from 15 to 30 per cent.

(c) While an accurate assessment of the cost of packaging in different countries may be difficult, cost of packaging in certain cases in India may be relatively higher.

(d) Various steps taken by the Govt. for promotion of food processing industries inter-alia include reductions of excise and customs duty on certain packaging materials like glass, paper and paper boards, aluminium foils and plastic. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has also extended financial support for Research & Development activities related to packaging of processed foods.

Proposals from States/UTs for giving benefits to SCs/STs

*280. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State/Union Territory Governments for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 for giving benefits to the SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Grant has been released against suitable proposals received in 1996-97 from State/U.T. Govt. which were complete in all respects. Grants have been released for some of the proposals received during current year. Other proposals are being processed and money will be released after they are found suitable in all respects.

A statement containing State/UT-wise releases for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 (updated) in respect of SCs and STs is given in the Annexure. (See Appendix 131, Annexure No. 52)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

**कोल इंडिया लि० द्वारा अदा नहीं किए गए
लाभांश की बकाया राशि**

2016. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर द्वे :
बया कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कोल इंडिया लि० ने उनके मंत्रालय को 1994-95 से लाभांश की अदायगी नहीं की है :

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं :

(ग) कोल इंडिया लि० पर वर्ष 1994-95, 1995-96 और 1996-97 के लिए लाभांश की बकाया राशि का व्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) बकाया लाभांश को वसूल करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह) : (क) से (ग) कंपनी अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 205 में दिए गए प्रावधानों के अनुसार लाभांश का भुगतान केवल विभाज्य लाभ ही किया जा सकता