

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the guilty; and

(c) the total quantity of goods seized in the incident of the recent theft, indicating their value alongwith the details of the persons involved in this pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Steel is not being stolen in

large quantities in connivance with some of the employees and security officers of Bokaro Steel Plant. However, there have been incidents of theft recently in which none of the arrested are employees/ security officers of the Bokaro Steel Plant. The details of goods seized, their value and the details of persons involved in the incidents of recent thefts, i.e., from January to June '96 are given below:

Sl. No.	Date of Occurrence	Quantity and value of goods seized	No. of persons arrested
1.	4.1.1996	250 Kgs. of Iron Scrap worth Rs. 2,000/-.	7
2.	7.1.1996	Pes. of scrap piston worth Rs. 500/-.	5
3.	11.1.1996	Pes. of G.C. Sheets worth Rs. 1000/-.	One

Discontinuance of Newsprint Import from Russia

3425. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) when did STC for the last time import newsprint and why did it discontinue the import especially from cheaper source like Russia, resulting in very high increase in its import price;

(b) the manpower strength of newsprint division of STC both at its corporate office and its branches in India; and

(c) the specific responsibilities these employees are under taking since the discontinuance of import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BHOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) STC last imported newsprint during 1993-94. The Corporation arranges imports in accordance with the market demand and viability.

(b) and (c) The manpower exclusively deployed in the Newsprint Division of STC at the Corporation is Nine. They are supported by managers posted in various branches who have since been deployed

on different jobs besides attending to consequential matters relating to post newsprint operations.

Grants by MDFC to Various States

3426. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI M.D. SALIM:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of list of grants made available to the States by the Minority Development and Finance Corporation;

(b) the allocation for the MDFC; and

(c) the amount released to MDFC since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation does not provide grants to the States. However, it provides loan assistance at concessional rates to the State level corporations. The amount of loan disbursed to States by National Minorities Development Corporation is annexed as Statement (*See below*)

(b) An amount of Rs. 125 crores has been earmarked under that VIII Five Year Plan towards contribution of equity

of the Central Government in the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation. The budget provision for 1996-97 is Rs. 36 crores.

(c) Union Government has released Rs. 50 crores and Rs. 30 crores during 1994-95 and 1995-96, respectively, as Central Government's contribution towards the equity of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.

Statement

Grants by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation to various States

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Total amount disbursed since inception upto 31.8.1996 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98.00
2.	Haryana	93.45
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.83
4.	Karnataka	277.08
5.	Kerala	449.64
6.	Madhya Pradesh	136.30
7.	Maharashtra	582.95
8.	Punjab	91.70
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1469.59

Proposal to invite American investors

3427. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to invite American investors in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manners in which investors as well as people of the country are likely to be protected?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government's efforts, as a part of the on-going liberalisation process to encourage foreign investment, are

targetted towards all global investors in general. In addition, country-specific investment promotion is also pursued.

(c) Decision to invest in India by foreign investors largely depend on their entrepreneurial judgements and on the other hand, such investments in India are allowed as per the declared policy guidelines.

देश में भर्ती एजेंट

3428. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी: क्या क्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उत्पवास अधिनियम, 1983 के लागू होने के पश्चात सरकारी तौर पर पंजीकृत किये गये भर्ती एजेंटों की राज्य-वार संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) क्या उक्त अधिनियम के अधीन विदेशों में रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने और भारतीय कर्मियों की सुरक्षा तथा अन्य सेवा शर्तों के संबंध में इन एजेंटों द्वारा नियमों का पालन न किये जाने के कोई मामले प्रकाश में आये हैं;

(ग) क्या वे एजेंट भारतीय कर्मियों के साथ धोखाधड़ी कर रहे हैं;

(घ) इन एजेंटों की श्रेणी-वार संख्या कितनी है और इनमें से प्रत्येक एजेंट द्वारा एकत्र की गई कुल राशि कितनी-कितनी है; और

(ङ) श्रेणी-वार भर्ती एजेंटों की नियुक्ति के पंजीकरण के लिए क्या मानदंड निर्धारित किये गये हैं?

श्री मंत्री (श्री एच० अरुणाचलम): (क) उत्पवास अधिनियम, 1983 अधिनियमित किये जाने के बाद से सरकार के पास 2785 भर्ती एजेंट पंजीकृत किये गये हैं जिनका राज्यवार और विवरण के रूप में संलग्न है (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) से (घ) विदेशों में रोजगार के लिए कर्मियों को लासल देने और धोखा देने के संबंध में भर्ती एजेंटों के विरुद्ध कुछ शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं। जब कभी गलती करने वाले भर्ती एजेंटों के विरुद्ध शिकायत प्राप्त होती है तो शिकायत की प्रकृति के आधार पर पुलिस और विदेश स्थित संबंधित भारतीय मिशन की सहायता से इनकी जांच की जाती है। समुचित मामलों में पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र निलंबित/रद्द करने की कार्रवाई की जाती है। इस समय भर्ती एजेंटों को प्रत्येक कर्मिकार से