

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, There has been an overall decrease in the total number of accidents (fatal and serious) during 1992, compared to 1991. There has, however, been an increase in the number of fatal accidents from 116

in 1991 to 130 in 1992. The increase in accidents is attributed mainly due to the rise in the incidence of roof/side fall in underground mines.

(c) The company-wise details of fatal as well as serious accidents during 1992 is as under :—

Company	No. of fatal accidents	No. of fatalities	No. of serious accidents	No. of serious injuries
ECL	30	33	93	99
BCCL	40	48	123	158
CCL	23	24	28	30
NCL	4	4	3	3
WCL	16	22	124	125
SECL	13	14	46	51
MCL	3	3	5	6
NEC	1	1
TOTAL :	130	149	422	472

Action Plan to Accelerate Exports

*114. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the action plan to accelerate the export growth by 20 per cent in dollar terms:

(b) whether Government are considering to deregulate the small scale sector to enable them to continue to perform the ancilliary function of providing a supply base for the export of larger

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ? houses; and

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) In order to increase exports, the Government have taken major steps for liberalisa-

tion of trade which include provision of export linked imports reduction of import licensing, strengthening export incentives, removal of procedural irritants through simplification of policy and procedures, and pruning of negative list of Exports. In 1993-94 Budget, the system of market determined unified exchange rate has been introduced and customs and a excise duties on many raw materials and capital goods have been reduced. The interest rate of rupee export credit has been reduced by one percentage point and the interest tax in the case of export credit from banks has been waived. Banks have been asked to ensure that export credit amounts to at least 10 per cent of their total advances by the end of June, 1993. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as "Extreme Focus" sectors for special export thrust abroad. The Exim Policy 1992-97 has been amended to include a scheme of EOU's for Agricultural and allied

sectors who export at least 50 per cent of their produce. The definition of 'manufacture' and 'capital goods' has been extended to include agricultural and allied activities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*115. [Transferred to 13th May, 1993]

Inadequate allocation of essential commodities to Karnataka under P.D.S.

*116. SHRI OM HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of allocations for essential commodities such as kerosene, rice, wheat, edible oil and sugar, for Karnataka has been static for last many years and is not keeping pace with increasing population, urbanisation and shortage of conventional fuels like firewood and coal;

(b) what are the reasons for such discrimination being shown to Karnataka in comparison to other States; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to release more quantum of essential commodities on a rational basis?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c) Allocation of essential commodities other than levy sugar are made for the Public Distribution System (PDS) on a month to month basis, taking into account availability of stocks in the Central Pool, inter se requirements of the States/UTs, seasonal factors etc. Levy sugar is allocated normally on the basis of 425 gm per capita per month on the projected population in the States/UTs, as on 1-10-1986. Allocations of essential

commodities for the PDS are not increased to any States/UT to keep pace with the increase in the population of the State/UT. There has been no discrimination against Karnataka in comparison to the other States in this regard.

Inclusion of more items for sale under PDS

*117. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to include some more items for sale through the Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a decision will be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) The Central Government arranges for procurement, storage and transportation of key essential commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, imported edible oil and soft coke for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Bulk allocations of these commodities are made to the State Governments.

The Central Government has advised the States/UTs. to include other commodities of mass consumption for distribution to consumers as per local requirement. The question of distribution of additional commodities was discussed at the 13th meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS held in August, 1991 and it was agreed that the State Governments could include items such as pulses, tea, washing soaps and iodised salt for distribution through the PDS outlets. National level organisations such as National Con-