

to the erstwhile Rupee Payment Area and other East European Countries.

(e) No, Sir. Indian Missions abroad are actively involved in the promotion of India's economic and commercial interest, including expansion of exports and encouraging investment flows.

(d) In order to increase exports, the Government have taken major steps for liberalisation 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 ex-charge rate has been introduced and customs and 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 esse 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" sector for a 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.

Fall in Shrimp Exports

*193. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have analysed the causes for the fall in the quantity of shrimp exports over the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that MPEDA has been only stressing the exports of shrimp in rupee terms; and

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in the quantity of shrimp exports in the year 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : [(a) and (c) Shrimp exports declined in 1992-93 to about 70894 MT valued at US \$ 391.20 million from 76151 MT value of US 3 400.05 million in the previous year. The decline was mainly due to (i) poor landings of shrimps on the West Coast; (ii) sluggish demand in Japan; and (iii) Cochin port strike during Sept.,—Nov. 1992.

(b) No, Sir, it is not true. While monitoring export performance, our promotional agencies evaluate the growth of exports in dollar terms, not just in rupee terms.

उपभोक्ता संरक्षण एजेंसियों को सुदृढ़ किया जाना

* 194. श्रीधर हरमोहन सिंह: क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रों यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उपभोक्ता संरक्षण एजेंसियों को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए, जिला, राज्य और राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर क्रिस्तरीय सुधार एजेंसियों की स्थापना हेतु नव वर्ष किए गए कार्यों का व्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) इस संबंध में अब तक पूरा कर लिए गए कार्यों का व्यौरा क्या है ?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री ए. के. एन्टनी) :

(क) और (ख) उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 के तहत, केन्द्र सरकार राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतियोग आयोग के गठन के लिए और राज्य सरकारें/सब राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतियोग आयोगों (राज्य आयोगों) तथा उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतियोग मंत्रों (जिला मंत्रों) की स्थापना के लिए उत्तरदायी हैं। राष्ट्रीय आयोग न, दिसम्बर 1988 से कार्य करना आरम्भ कर दिया है, 30 राज्य आयोग तथा 447 जिला मंत्र भी, राज्य तथा जिला-स्तरों पर कार्य कर रहे हैं।

राज्य सरकारों से अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे इन अभियंत्रणों के सुचारु कार्यकरण हेतु उन्हें सभी आवश्यक सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराएं।

**धन और सहित निर्वात परिषद
को स्थापना**

*195 डा. जितेन्द्र कुमार जीन :

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या धन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने भारतीय मूल के कार्यकारियों और अन्य कुशल आवश्यकियों को विदेशों में भेजने हेतु एक "धन-शक्ति निर्वात परिषद्" गठित करने का निर्णय लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका स्वीरा क्या है ;

(ग) इस निर्णय को लेने के क्या कारण हैं तथा क्या सरकार निजी क्षेत्र के माध्यम से विदेशों में श्रमिकों को भेजे जाने की वर्तमान प्रवृत्ति पर प्रतिबंध लगाएगी ; और

(घ) उक्त परिषद् कब तक गठित किए जाने की संभावना है ?

धन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री श्री पी. ए. संख्या

(क) से (ख) मामला सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

Change In coal minig process

*196. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that open cast coai milting results in environmental and ecological degradation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that coal from open cast mines is often mixed with gravel while coal from underground mines is of a better quality ;

(c) wheher Government would change the mining process from open cast to underground mining ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI

AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Coal raining activities, particularly the open cast have an adveise effect on the environment due to degradation of land, air and water pollution etc. However, in order to m tigeaie the tdveisc effects due to min'ng opera!'ons action is taken for implementation of environmental protective measures viz. land reclamation, afforestation, control of air and water pollution etc. • Necessary protective measures are in-corporated in the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) which are prepared for the individual coal projects.

(b) In opencast mining due to large scale mining operations with the use of heavy earth moving machinery, some admixture of stones, shales and over burden material with coal is unavoidable. However steps have been taken to improve the quality of coal by providing coal handling/screening plants for maintaining the quality of despatches, beneficiation of non-coking coai for eliminating extraneous material etc.

(c) and (d) The choice of method of coal mining viz. opencast or underground mainly depends on factors like the nature of the coal deposits, geo-mining conditions and therefore technology application is specific to the mining block.

Reforms in coal sector

*197. SHRI SATISH PRAOWCN:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the major reforms proposed by Government in Public Sector Coai Industry, indicating the objectives of the reforms;

(b) what is the number of surplus staff in officer and labour cadres; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the ex'stmg manpower, if so, what are the ' modalities in this regard?