

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 exchange 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 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" 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 at US \$ 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. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह: क्या नागरिक आर्गुटि उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

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

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

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

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

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

**श्री श्री शक्ति निर्यात परिषद
को स्थापना**

* 195 डा. जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या श्रीमती यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

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

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका व्यौरा 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 प्रतिबन्ध लगाएगी; और

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

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज के राज्य मंत्री श्री पी. ए. संगमा

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

Change in coal mining process

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

(a) whether it is a fact that open cast coal mining 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) whether 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 mining activities, particularly the open cast have an adverse effect on the environment due to degradation of land, air and water pollution etc. However, in order to mitigate the adverse effects due to mining operations action is taken for implementation of environmental protective measures viz. land reclamation, afforestation, control of air and water pollution etc. Necessary protective measures are incorporated 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 overburden 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 coal 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 PRADHAN :**

SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the major reforms proposed by Government in Public Sector Coal 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 existing manpower, if so, what are the modalities in this regard?