

Erosion in earnings due to Appreciation of Rupee

1194. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sectors like Information Technology, Textile, Leather and Handicrafts have been badly hit by the persistent rise in rupee *vis-a-vis* dollar as rupee has reportedly appreciated by more than 10 per cent in the last 12 months, resulting in erosion of earnings;

(b) whether Government proposes to give fiscal support specially for technology upgradation, capital investment to IT sector by Public Private Partnership; and

(c) what steps new Government has taken so far in funding of affected industries, so that, they are able to push export during 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There has been no appreciation of Rupee *vis-a-vis* US \$ during last few months and consequentially there has been no impact of Rupee Appreciation on the Indian Industries.

Impact of economic slowdown on trade pacts with other countries

1195. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the impact of the economic slowdown on the trade pacts with other countries, particularly USA, Europe and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the indigenous industries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government has not entered into any bilateral trade pacts with the USA, Europe or China. There are a number of Trade Agreements with individual countries (e.g. India-Singapore CECA, India-Sri Lanka FTA, India-Chile PTA, etc.) and with groups of countries (e.g. Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, India-MERCOSUR PTA, etc.). No specific study to assess the impact of economic slowdown on these Trade Pacts has been done.

(c) Does not arise.

Global tender for Import of Coal

1196. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) Ltd. floated a global tender on May 19, 2009 for import of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the genesis of the coal import proposal, including targeted quality, quantity and GIF prices and special conditions, if any, prescribed for eligibility of potential bidders;

(c) whether Government have been seized of the complaint reportedly lodged with CVC alleging corruption in the tendering process;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith response thereto;

(e) whether State Trading Corporation (STC) Ltd. had also imported coal during 2004-05 to 2008-09; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Two complaints received in this regard have been forwarded to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for their advice.

(e) and (f) State Trading Corporation (STC) had also floated four (04) tenders for import of coal on behalf of NTPC. The details thereof are as under:-

First Tender: Number STC/HYDRO/NTPC/100 dated 10th October, 2005 due on 20th October, 2005 for procurement of 1.9 million MTs of imported steam (Non-Coking) Coal.

Second Tender: Number STC/HYDRO/CUSTOMER/200 dated 17th April, 2006 due on 02nd May, 2006 for procurement of 7.00 to 10.00 million MTs of imported steam (Non-Coking) Coal.

Third Tender: Number STC/HYDRO/300 dated 23/08/2006 due on 7th September, 2006 at 1430 Hrs for procurement of 7 to 10 million MTs of imported Steam (Non-Coking) Coal for the year 2006-07.

Fourth Tender: Number STC/HYDRO/NTPC/400 dated 28th August, 2008 due on 18th September, 2008 at 14.30 Hrs for procurement of 8.25 Million MTs (+/-2%) of imported coal for the year 2008-09.

All the above four tenders were floated for and on behalf of NTPC and other customers. However, Tender No, STC/HYDRO/300 dated 23/08/2006 was scrapped. The supplies under the above said tenders have already been completed.

Statement

Global tender for Import of Coal

MMTC Limited floated a global tender on 19.05.2009 for procurement of 12.50 Million MT +/- 2% of imported coal for the year 2009-10 for various power plants of NTPC. Looking to the availability of domestic coal *vis-a-vis* growing demand of coal fired power plants, Ministry of Power has given targets to power utilities for imported coal for the financial year 2009-10. NTPC has been given a target of 12.50 Million MT imported steam coal for 2009-10. NTPC invited MMTC, STC & Coal India Limited to quote sealed offer of service margin for procurement of 12,50 Million MT +/- 2% imported steam coal for the year 2009-10 for their various thermal power plants located across

the country. NTPC placed Letter of Intent (LOI) on MMTC for supply of 12.50 Million MT +/- 2% imported steam coal for their various power plants on 15.5.2009.

In terms of the NTPC's bidding document and the LOI, MMTC floated back to back tender; the details thereof are as under:

- 1) Quantity: 12.50 Million MT +/- 2%
- 2) Quality: Technical specifications of coal

Parameter	Unit	Acceptable range
Total Moisture (ARB)	%	10-20 Max.
Ash (ADB)	%	8-20
Fixed Carbon (ADB)	%	30-50 Typical
Volatile Matter (ADB)	%	25-45
Sulphur (ADB)	%	0.70-0.90 Max.
Gross Calorific Value (ADB)	Kcal/Kg	5800-6500
HGI	-	45-60
IDT under reducing atom 0c	0c	1100-1250
Size	MM	0-50

Price Basis: GCV (ADB) = 6300 Kcal/Kg. TM (AR) = 16%, Ash (ADB) = 10%, Sulphur = 0.8%

3) Bidders Qualifying Criteria: (i) The bidder shall have experience for supply of minimum of 2.00 MMT of imported coal, in any one financial year during last three financial years directly or through PSUs to any Power/Cement/Steel/Fertilizer/Industrial utilities. (ii) The bidder or their associates should have handled a minimum 2.00 MMT of any dry bulk (solid commodity like Coal, Fertilizer and Cement etc.) in India in any one financial year during the last three financial years, including port operations and delivery up to destination, (iii) The bidder has to quote for minimum 60% of the tendered quantity (i.e; minimum 7.5 MMT). The bidder has to enclose a list of tie-ups the bidder has bid with the mine owners to confirm that he has minimum 60% of tender quantities available with him. (iv) The bidder should not have ever defaulted in supply of thermal coal and also should not have ever been blacklisted/banned for participation in any of the power utilities/Government/Semi-Government companies/PS Us in India.

4) Price: MMTC received four (04) bids in response to the tender. One bid has been rejected being without requisite EMD i.e. received a photocopy of bid bond. As the price bids have not been opened, the C&F price is not known.

White Paper on WTO Negotiations

1197. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government promised a White Paper on WTO negotiations; and
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay and by when it will be brought out?