

indicated that an increase in the quota for export of readymade garments from India will now hinge on reciprocal market access provided to the US textile industry;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are considering its demand;

(c) whether any action in this regard has been taken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Many of the industrialised countries, notably the US, have taken the stand in the Uruguay Round Negotiations that countries which are demanding greater access to their markets in textiles and clothing must also make progress in opening up their own markets for these products.

(b) to (e). India maintains a restrictive regime on imports of consumer goods for balance of payments reasons. As most textile and clothing items are consumer goods, imports of these are also subject to licencing. It has been explained to India's trading partners that any significant liberalisation of import of textiles in India would have to await a substantial improvement in the balance of payments situation.

National Sericulture Project

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*159. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-
SEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the major factors for

the delay in implementing the National Sericulture Project is the failure of adequate credit distribution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the National Sericulture Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). The World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project (N.S.P.) with an outlay of Rs. 555 crores, covers 17 States. In spite of the complexity of the project, the progress of its implementation has, by and large, been satisfactory.

The credit requirement under NSP works out to Rs. 165.6 crores. Of this, credit component in respect of 5 traditional States is Rs. 143.5 crores and balance Rs. 22.1 crores is for the other 12 pilot States. While credit flow in respect of traditional States (Upto March, 1992) has been recorded at 46% of the target, the same has been around 10% of the overall target set for pilot States. However, the slow pace of the credit flow has not resulted in delay in establishing infrastructure, extension of mulberry acreage etc. envisaged under the project.

(c) The National Sericulture Project (NSP) is being implemented by the Central Silk Board and the State Governments of 5 traditional States (viz. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir). The Central Silk Board is implementing the project in 20 Districts in 12 non-traditional States (viz. Kerala, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh).

The implementing agencies of the NSP are taking various steps for implementation of their respective components and progress of the project is being monitored periodically

at Distt./State/National level by the Committees constituted for the purpose.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the project, the Central Silk Board is organising different training programmes for various functionaries of the project besides organising orientation programmes for Distt. Magistrates & Distt. Officers of Pilot States to familiarise them with the sericultural activities envisaged under the project. The officers in-charge of project area have been advised to conduct work shops/field days to provide necessary guidance to the project beneficiaries.

In order to accelerate credit flow under the project, the CSB is organising workshops and seminars to educate the bankers and the lending institutions about the economic viability and credit needs of sericulture sector. CSB is also circulating a monthly 'NSP News Letter' for the purpose. Recently, the CSB had organised a National Workshop on Credit to Sericulture at Bangalore on 22nd & 23rd May, 1992.

NTC Mills

*160. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposal from the several quarters regarding the decision of the Union Govt. to refer the National Textile Corporation to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to run the NTC Mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Representations have been received that the cases of sick mill

companies under the National Textile Corporation may not be referred to BIFR.

(c) Government have under consideration a "Turn around Strategy" proposed by NTC which involves its restructuring, amalgamation, modernisation, labour rationalisation, etc.

[Translation]

Road Tax on Commercial Vehicles Entering Delhi

*161. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new scheme to levy road tax on commercial vehicles like buses and trucks from other States entering Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional revenue likely to be earned annually as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Purchase of Handloom Items by Government Departments

*162. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the accumulation of handloom and khadi items with the weavers in various States;

(b) whether this situation has arisen due to the non-purchase of handloom items by the Government departments;