

then it was related to textile industry and I have shared the available information with the hon. Members. In context of the point raised by Mr. George Fernandes I would like to tell that a scheme worth Rs. 533 crore was prepared for modernisation of NTC Mills during the Eighth Plan, out of which Rs. 414 crore was to be given by financial institutions and rest was to be given through budgetary support. In revised scheme the amount has been increased upto Rs. 2005 crore and it is being reviewed. I would also like to tell the hon. Members that 33,000 workers of NTC have been benefited under the voluntary retirement scheme, in textile industry, under the voluntary retirement scheme a provision of Rs. 689 crore has been made in which 80,000 persons comprising with 73,000 workers and 7,000 officers will be benefited.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have asked about the arrangement made for their salaries of coming months and you are telling about their voluntary retirement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, reply to the question must be given. I would like to know whether the ministry has made any arrangement for their salaries of next months.

[English]

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: How many cooperations are there under the Ministry of Textiles?

Secondly, how are these corporations helping the cooperative spinning mills?

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Sir, the hon. Member has asked that how many corpo-

rations are under the Ministry of Textiles. I am telling about the views of the State Government which were put forth about the financial assistance being provided by the Finance Ministry. I want a separate notice in this connection.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Smuggling of Heroin

*144. SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL:
SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is becoming a major originating centre for heroin smuggling;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed be taken by the Government to check the growing influence of heroin cartels; and

(c) the counter measures being initiated to prevent smuggling of opium out of the cultivation points scattered in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MUTRHY): (a) Intelligence reports received and seizures made by various enforcement agencies in Delhi indicate that Delhi is being used as transit point by drug traffickers for out

smuggling of heroin of Pakistan Origin. The indigenous heroin is also being brought to Delhi in small quantities by drug traffickers from opium growing areas of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The seizure of heroin made in Delh during the year 1991, 1992 and 1993 is as under:—

1991	1992	1993
67 Kgs.	28 Kgs.	139 Kgs.

(b) Instructions have been issued to all enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in the various Acts. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. A part of Indo-Pakistan border has been fenced. Vehicles and communication equipment has been provided to enforcement agencies.

Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical for manufacture of heroin has been declared as a 'Controlled Substance' under the NDPS Act and a regulation order has been issued to regulate the manufacture, distribution, sale, imports, exports and consumption of Acetic Anhydride. Controls have been imposed on the movement of the chemical within 50 Kms. of Indo-Pak Border and 100 Kms. of Indo-Myanmar Border under the Customs Act.

(c) Production of opium in States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is regulated under strict licensing control and supervision by the Central Government. Various law enforcement agencies keep strict vigil over poppy cultivation and stringent penal measures are taken under the NDPS Act for any violation.

Women Labour

*145. SHRIMATI SAROJ
DUBEY:
SHRI RAM BADAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of women labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the findings thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the women labourers are paid the minimum wages; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government for their upliftment and to check their exploitation by the employers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The findings of the survey have been published by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India in the Union Primary Census Abstract 1991. State-wise numbers of women workers are indicated in the attached *Statement*.

(c) The Government have enacted laws to ensure payment of equal wages to men and women. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 fixation equal minimum wages for men and women in different employments is prescribed. The equal remuneration Act, 1976 further prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex between men and women workers in the same establishment or employment and for the same work or work of similar nature.