

[Translation]

Development of Handloom Industry

468. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are sufficient opportunities for the development of textile handloom industry in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to find out the possibilities for development of handloom industry in Uttar Pradesh and the details of the assistance likely to be provided to it?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The assessment of technical and financial requirements for development of handloom sector is a continuous process, which is done by the Government in consultation with the concerned State Government, its participating handloom agencies and the Weavers' Service Centres. On the basis of viable project proposals received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, a total sum of Rs. 115.55 Crores was sanctioned during VIIIth Plan period under various Schemes for development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers. The State Governments, including Uttar Pradesh have been advised to send adequate number of proposals for central assistance under various schemes during the current financial year.

Oil from Coal

469. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to make oil from coal; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

[English]

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

470. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Khadi and Village Industries exist in the country;

(b) whether the Government have any monitoring system for these industries; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) At present 30 State KVI Boards, 4500 registered institutions, 30,080 cooperatives, 7,20,000 indi-

vidual units, 170 Departmental units and 15,180 sales outlets are engaged in the production and sale of Khadi and village industries in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The performance of the Khadi and Village Industries are monitored by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during the annual budget discussions held with the representatives of the implementing agencies and State Khadi and Village Industry Boards. Government also reviews the performance of these industries periodically by arranging conferences/meetings with the participation of State Industry Ministers and Secretaries, representatives from the State KVI Boards and Bankers.

Strike in SBI Mumbai

471. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers of the State Bank of India Mumbai went on strike from 12th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made by the Government and other authorities to end the strike and the result thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to avoid such type of strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Strike was called following suspension of three officers of the State Bank of India (SBI) in the context of certain alleged irregularities committed by them relating to the accounts of M/s CRB Capital Markets Ltd., which were brought out by a preliminary inquiry conducted by a senior officer of the bank. The irregularities in the account of M/s CRB Capital Markets Ltd., inter alia, included fraudulent overdrawal from its accounts with the SBI, Mumbai Main Branch for payment of interest warrants, deposit refunds and brokerage warrants, by an amount of over Rs. 58 crores.

(c) and (d) SBI has reported that strike was called off on the basis of an understanding reached on 18th June, 1997 between the management and the All India State Bank Officers Federation. Government view has been that while there should not be any harassment of innocent persons at the same time, officers involved in serious wrong doings should be severely dealt with in an expeditious manner.

Writing off Bad-debt

472. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of bad-debt declared and written off by the RBI during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 upto 31.3.97;

(b) the details of the persons/parties/companies etc.