

of 17.5% per annum, compounded at the end of each month.

(e) As the realisation of arrears of revenue is an on going process, such measures, administrative, legal and others, as are considered necessary from time to time continue to be taken. In case of deliberate and persistent tax default of huge amounts less preferential treatment in the matters concerning approval of applications for capital issues, bonus shares, loans from banks/public financial institutions, expansion licencing etc., is given:

[*Translation*]

**Provision of raw material for weavers in Bihar**

655. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of State for TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide raw material, finance and proper market facilities to improve the lot of weavers in Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to make arrangements for the export of their goods;

(c) if so, when and how; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government of India has formulated a number of schemes in consultation with the State Governments for provision of raw material, finance and for providing marketing assistance to handloom weavers throughout the country. These schemes are implemented by State Governments and are not area/district specified. Following facilities are provided with a view to improving the lot of weavers, including, those in Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur Districts of Bihar:

*Provision of Raw Material.*—Hank Yarn obligation scheme ensu-

res adequate provision of hank yarn for the handloom weavers. For augmenting yarn production, assistance is given for setting up of new spindles, expansion of the existing capacities by way of share capital participation in weavers cooperative spinning mills. National Handloom Development Corporation was set up with a view to augment yarn supply and supply of dyes and chemicals to the handloom weavers.

*Provision of Finance.*—A scheme is in operation for providing working capital finance to primary/apex cooperative societies through cooperative banks. Individual weavers in the fold of State level handloom corporations are assisted by the Corporations which get working capital finance from nationalised banks and the other banks.

*Marketing Assistance.*—A comprehensive Market Development Assistance scheme is being implemented by the Central Government as a replacement of the earlier rebate scheme. Under this scheme, state level apex cooperative societies and corporations are eligible for assistance at the rate of 8% of their turnover or the amount equal to rebate drawn by them in the year 1988-89. This scheme gives greater flexibility to State organisations to deploy the funds for improving the marketing of handloom products.

(b) to (d) *Export of Handloom Products.*—Government has set up Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd., which tries to promote export of handloom products from all over the country. However, export is largely in private hands and is done through private negotiations. There also exists a Handloom Export Promotion Council which strives to promote handloom exports from India.