

Obligation Scheme which requires every producer of yarn to pack at least 50% of the total yarn packed for civil consumption in hank form; (ii) Loan assistance through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for setting up of new Weavers' Cooperative Spinning Mills and expanding the capacity of existing weavers' cooperative spinning mills in order to augment production for the handloom sector; (iii) Setting up of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) with the primary objective of supplying hank yarn to weavers at reasonable prices; (iv) Constitution of State Level Yarn Price Fixation Committees to regulate selling prices of hank yarn produced by cooperative and State sector mills for supplies to the handloom weavers; and (v) Complete exemption of excise duty on double cross reel hank yarn in order to make available yarn to handloom weavers at reasonable prices.

In the wake of recent spurt in yarn prices, Central Government convened a meeting of major representative bodies of spinning industry in the country to impress upon them the need to follow moderation and maintain stability in prices of yarn. Chief Ministers of States have been requested to monitor the production of yarn by cooperative/State sector mills, and to hold regular State level reviews at the level of Secretary in charge of Textiles regarding supply, prices and distribution of hank yarn. Chief Ministers have also been advised to impress of the District Collectors to organise regular checking of the stocks and selling prices of yarn dealers in the districts with a view to preventing hoarding of yarn. Central Government on its part has issued

directions to National Textile Corporation (NTC) to augment production of yarn of counts of 40s and below where the price rise has affected the handloom weavers the most. Government of India has also decided to review the export of cotton yarn even though it is of vital interest for maintaining balance of payment position. National Handloom Development Corporation has been directed to step up its yarn supply operations to handloom weavers and agencies in the States. Directions have been issued to Textile Commissioner to initiate checking of yarn dealers with a view to activate dehoarding operations.

#### **Safety Measures to minimise Road Accidents**

\*545. SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any safety measures to minimise road accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main causes of road accidents on National Highways; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to develop National Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken following measures to minimise the accidents :—

(i) Continuous improvements on the National Highways, by way of better geometrics, provision

of bypasses, widening to 2/4 lanes, improved intersections etc.

- (ii) More stringent provisions in the Motor Vehicle Act regarding training and licensing of drivers, periodical checking of vehicles for road worthiness, improved standards of construction of vehicles especially with reference to safety aspects, measures to check overloading of trucks.
- (iii) Setting up of National and State level Road Safety Councils.
- (iv) Campaigns to promote better awareness of road safety among all sections of road users, including pedestrians have been organised.

(c) Main causes of road accidents on National Highways as well as other Highways are *inter alia* fault of drivers, mechanical defects of vehicles, fault of passengers, fault of pedestrians, bad weather, road deficiencies and other miscellaneous causes like unmanned railway crossings and mixed traffic conditions.

(d) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and schemes of improvement and removal of deficiencies are taken up depending on *inter se* priorities, availability of funds etc., in different Plan periods.

#### Financial Assistance to Tobacco Companies by Nationalised Banks

\*546. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks are financing tobacco companies; and

(b) if so, the amount of assistance given to the tobacco companies during each of the last three years, bank-wise and company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of outstanding advances by scheduled Commercial Banks for tobacco products as at the end of June 1988, 1989 and June 1990 (latest available) as reported by Reserve Bank of India is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Amount
June, 1988	302
June, 1989	355
June, 1990	373

As far as Bank-wise details are concerned, RBI has reported that the information is available for the banks financing tobacco companies enjoying aggregate credit limits of Rs. 5 crores and above. The sanctioned limits (Working Capital and Term Loan) and the total outstanding as on last Friday of December, 1988, 1989 and 1990 are given in the attached statement. So far as company-wise information is concerned, in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers and the statutes governing the public sector banks, information relating to, or to the affairs of their constituents, is not divulged.