

(b) the steps being taken to supply yarn at subsidy rates;

(c) whether there is any move to bring handloom industry in cooperative sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) A group Insurance Scheme for 12000 handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh has been introduced during 1991-92 on pilot basis.

(b) At present there is no Scheme for supply of yarn at subsidised rates.

(c) It has been the consistent policy of Government of India to bring in handlooms into the cooperative fold progressively.

(d) Government of India provides loan for share capital to enable weavers to become members of primary weavers cooperative societies. A scheme called 'Margin Money for Destitute Weavers' has been introduced during the current year for co-operativisation of weavers living below poverty line.

Foreign Collaboration in Defence Production

744. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow entry of foreign multinational companies in the defence production units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Association of foreign companies, including multinationals, in defence production units is not a new move. Some of the Defence production units have already on-going collaboration agreements with several foreign companies.

Change in Patents Act 1970

745. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Patents Act, 1970;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its effect on the Indian Pharmaceutical industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no proposal under consideration to amend the Patents Act, 1970.

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

[Translation]

Implementation of ARDRS in Uttar Pradesh

746. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons benefited under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1991-92, till date, district-wise; and

(b) the total amount sanctioned and distributed thereof during the above period under the scheme?