

(b) whether any financial assistance was given by the Central Government to the Common Salt Industries in Orissa during the same period; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) 47,000 metric tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Output of Handloom Products in Orissa

3488. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhaleswar Meena:
Shri Heerji Bhal:
Shri K. Pradhanal:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the total output of handloom products manufactured in Orissa during 1958-57;

(b) the total consumption of yarn during the same period; and

(c) the total amount granted to Orissa for the development of handloom industry in the State during the same period?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shah Qureshi): (a) 78 million metres.

(b) 6.5 million kilo grammes.

(c) Rs. 7.39 lakhs.

Price of Yarn

3489. Shri Parthasarathy:
Shri Sarjoo Pandey:
Shri Ishaq Sambhalli:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Handloom Industry is facing a crisis due to the increase in the price of yarn and poor offtake; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the crisis?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shah Qureshi): (a) Yes, Sir. Some representations to this effect have been received by the Government. Prices of yarn have increased in recent months, particularly of super fine yarn.

(b) The following steps have been taken to bring down the prices of yarn:

(1) An Ad-hoc Committee on cotton yarn has been set up by the Textile Commissioner to review the prices and recommend suitable measures.

(2) Textile Commissioner requisitions raw cotton in cases where the Mills seek such assistance.

(3) Representations for supply of yarn received from individual societies and associations are sent to the South India Mill Owner's Association who meet such requirements.

Shortage of Baby Food in Orissa

3490. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:
Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of baby food in Orissa now;

(b) the normal supply of various types of baby food to Orissa per month; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage now?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) No report of acute shortage of baby food has been received from Orissa.

(b) approximately 12000 Kg. per month on an average.

(c) Baby food has been declared as an Essential Commodity under the Essential Commodities Act and every possible facility is being accorded for increasing its production including the import of skimmed milk.