

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Items reserved for production under Handloom Sector

2878. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that most of the items reserved for production under handloom sector are being produced in the powerloom and very little is being done by the State Governments to enforce the Reservation Control Order; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Some violations of the Reservation Orders have been reported and State Governments are taking action in accordance with the provisions of the Reservation Order in respect of these violations. However, they are being requested to be more vigilant and ensure stricter implementation of the Reservation Orders.

Classification of Cities

2879. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) criteria fixed for classification of cities under Class 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and so on in the country for purposes of giving house rent and other allowances;

(b) the year in which the cities were classified last and also the list of cities under different classes; and

(c) whether Government propose to declare Gwalior as 'B' class city in near future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Cities are classified for the purpose of payment of house rent allowance and compensatory (city) allowance to the Central Government employees into A, B-1, B-2 and C categories on the basis of their population as revealed in the last decennial census as follows:

Class Population criterion.

A More than 16 lakhs.

B-1 Above 8 lakhs but not exceeding 16 lakhs.

B-2 Above 4 lakhs but not exceeding 8 lakhs.

C 50,000 and above but not exceeding 4 lakhs.

While for the payment of house rent allowance, only the population of the municipal area of city is taken into account, for the payment of compensatory (city) allowance, the population of the Urban Agglomeration of the city, wherever it exists, is reckoned for the purpose. Where, however, such Urban Agglomeration does not exist, the classification of city for the payment of compensatory (city) allowance also is based on the population of the municipal area of the city.

(b) Cities were last classified in 1974 following the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. Upto-date lists of the cities classified for the payment of house rent allowance and compensatory (city) allowance, are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-642/77].

(c) On the basis of the population of its Urban Agglomeration as shown in the 1971 census, Gwalior is already classified as a B-2 class city and is eligible for the payment of compensatory (city) allowance to the Central Government employees. For the payment of house rent allowance, however, since the population of the Gwalior city as per 1971 census does not exceed 4,00,000, it is classified only as 'C' class town.

Export/Import of Cast Acrylic Sheets

2880. SHRI BHAGIRATH BHANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any export or import of cast acrylic sheets from India; and

(b) if so, the price of the product indigenous and imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) While import of non-pearlized acrylic sheets is not allowed, that of pearlized acrylic sheets is allowed on restricted basis to the manufacturers of acrylic buttons.

There were imports and exports of polyacrylate sheets during 1975-76 and 1976-77 (April—February, 77).

(b) The average price of imported polyacrylate sheets during 1976-77 was Rs. 5.43 per kg. The price of indigenous acrylic sheet varies according to thickness and size of the sheet. Generally a 3 mm sheet 3' x 4' (weighing approximately 4 kg.) costs between Rs. 100 and Rs. 150.

Soft Loan Policy of Nationalised Banks

2881. SHRI T. S. SHRANGARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have followed the Central Govern-

ment's "soft loan policy" for the industrialisation of backward areas during the 1976-77;

(b) if so, what is the amount disbursed by them; and

(c) the amounts already disbursed by the banks in the districts particularly Aurangabad, Bhir, Nanded, Parbhani and Osmanabad which have been declared as backward by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the loans given by nationalised banks at a concessional rate of interest in industrially backward areas under the Industrial Development Bank of India's Refinance Scheme. Information in respect of such assistance, if any, disbursed by the nationalised banks in the industrially backward areas and in particular in the districts of Aurangabad, Bhir, Nanded, Parbhani and Osmanabad is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Fresh Investment in Coal Industry

2882. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state the amount of fresh investment in the coal industry in the form of preference and equity share capital and long term loans given by public financial institutions over the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): During the last three financial years in the Unit Trust of India, Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India have neither made any fresh investment in coal industry in the form of pre-