

Revitalisation of Powerloom Industry

951. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of powerlooms are idle in the country due to high prices of raw materials and slump in market;

(b) if so, the steps Government intend to take to revitalise the powerloom industry;

(c) whether Government are aware of the demand made by the all India Powerloom Weavers' Federation for the exemption from the compound levy; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a). Yes, Sir.

(b). The question of a new policy approach to the powerloom sector as part of a set of coordinated policies for the various sectors of the textile industry, is under consideration of the Government.

(c). Yes, Sir.

(d). The matter is under consideration.

Supply of Essential Commodities to Fair Price Shops

952. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) how far are Government following former Government's policy of supplying essential commodities to the fair price shops in the country;

(b) whether Government intend to increase the number of fair price shops and the quantity of supply; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) to (c). While supply of essential commodities through the fair price shops in the country continues, the question of strengthening the public distribution system, especially to cover the weaker sections of the community, both in the rural and urban areas, is under the consideration of Government.

Controlled Cloth Policy

953. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the controlled cloth policy;

(b) whether Government have also examined its effect on the industry as a whole; and

(c) if so, the salient features of their findings thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) to (c). The operation of the scheme for the production of controlled cloth has been kept under constant review and modifications in the scheme are being made from time to time to meet the developing situations. Some modifications were made in the scheme only recently in January 1977 after keeping in view the effect of the scheme on the industry and the interests of the vulnerable sections of the population for which the scheme is intended. Further review is being undertaken.