

interest to divulge the details of the report or the action proposed to be taken thereon at this stage.

[*Translation*]

Programme to Provide Powerlooms to Handloom Weavers

5999. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government introduced a programme to provide powerlooms to handloom weavers during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the extent to which it was implemented and the details in respect of remaining part thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to continue this programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan also;

(d) whether the amount of loan and subsidy given is too small to set up a powerloom; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to increase the same ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKAR SINGH) : (a) 25000 Powerlooms had been ear-marked for allotment to the Handloom Cooperative Societies during the Sixth Five Year Plan period.

(b) Statewise quotas were placed at the disposal of the respective State Governments for allotment to Handloom Cooperative Societies. Implementation of the same is being carried out by the concerned State Textile Authorities, who were requested that the quotas should be utilised within the Sixth Five Year Plan Period itself.

(c) Government have not decided so far to continue this programme during Seventh Five Year Plan.

(d) and (e). The Central Government have not provided for any special scheme of loan or subsidy for this programme.

[*English*]

Proposal to Start Another Yard of SAIL at Cochin

6000. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that the facilities in the yard of the Steel Authority of India Ltd., at Willingdon Island, Cochin are inadequate to meet the industries in Kerala;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the facilities; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to start another yard of the Steel Authority of India Limited at Cochin ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) SAIL feel that their present stockyard at Cochin is inadequate due to its

(i) being small in size and land being in two portions thus making the operations difficult; and

(ii) not having facilities for unloading a rake of iron and steel materials.

To overcome these constraints SAIL have selected a suitable alternate plot of land closer to the railway station for their stockyard. The State Government has been requested to initiate acquisition proceedings and the Railways have been requested to conduct a feasibility survey for a siding.

Refinancing to Mini Cement Plants by IDBI

6001. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has stopped all refinancing to the mini cement plants w. e. f. 15 January, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision despite of the fact that the mini cement plants have tremendous socio-economic benefits;

(c) in case the above decision is on a temporary basis, the exact period for which the finance will not be made available; and

(d) whether the fate of small entrepreneurs who have substantially gone ahead both in terms of project work and monitoring investment have been duly considered before taking such a decision ?

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

(b) On the basis of an assessment of the total capacity already created in the industry, including in the large-scale sector, coupled with proposals in the pipeline vis-a-vis demand, it was considered appropriate to regulate the tempo of setting up of mini cement plants and accordingly all the primary lending institutions were advised not to entertain any fresh proposal w. e. f. 15th January, 1985.

(c) and (d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has undertaken a review of the viability of a few assisted mini cement plants in the context of the current cost structure besides ascertaining the effective steps taken for implementing the project, extent of expenditure incurred, receipt of licences approvals etc. by the pipeline cases. On completion of the review/scrutiny IDBI will take appropriate decisions about extending refinance assistance to the pipeline cases.

**Tea Industry Urged to Raise
Prkouction**

6002. **SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have instructed tea industry in the country to frame and adopt a long-term plan for raising production;

(b) the response by the Industry to this proposal; and

(c) the steps initiated towards this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). Discussions are constant'y being held with the tea industry regarding steps to raise production. Draft 7th Plan, under which target of production has been fixed at 766 M. kg. at the end of the Plan, has also been formulated in consultation with the industry. The budget proposals for 85-86 contain a provision for facilitating plough back of pre tax profits for development of the gardens. A task Force has been constituted under Deputy Governor Reserve Bank to suggest measures for ensuring smooth measures for ensuring smooth flow of funds from financial institutions for development of plantation crops including tea. Investments in tea are reported to have gone up considerably in last two years resulting in a record increase in production.

**Exploration of Gold and Iron-Ore
in Kerala**

6003. **DR. K. G. ADIYODI :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of experts has been sent to Kerala to explore gold and iron ore in Kerala;

(b) if so, when and its results;

(c) whether there is any proposal to carry out commercial exploration of gold and iron in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). U N. Experts participated in the investigation of gold and iron-ore in parts of Kerala under a programme of assistance available between 1977-1984. The