

(a) whether the coffee growers have represented against the high rate of duty being charged on the coffee which is exported;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the same rate of export duty is charged on coffee exported to the quota countries as well as the Soviet Union;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to change it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Export duty on coffee has been reduced from Rs. 720/- per quintal to Rs. 570/- per quintal on 29th April, 1985 and further reduced to Rs. 415/- per quintal on 10th June, 1985. Duties of such nature are generally levied at uniform rates irrespective of destination of export.

Trend of exports

748. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the rate of increase in exports during the past three years;

(b) the names of items whose export has declined during this period; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Export have registered an increase of 114.1 per cent in 1982-83, 10.8 per cent in 1983-84 and 20.2 per cent in 1984-85 as compared to the preceding year.

(b) Commodity-wise provisional export statistics are available for 1982-83, 1983-84 and April-December, 1984,

The exports of Coffee and Coffee substitutes, Oil cakes, Marine Products, Coir and Coir manufactures registered a continuous decline during the period mentioned above.

(c) Policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Different instruments of policy available to Government are being utilised for this purpose and adjusted as and when necessary.

Action plan to involve public sector in Export Business

749. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an action plan has been formulated to involve the public sector in the export business; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, state trading organisations in the public sector such as STC, MMTC and PEC are engaged in the export business.

Implementation of scheme of workshed-cum-housing scheme for Handloom weavers

750. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to implement a centrally sponsored project called "Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for handloom weavers" ; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and the centres selected for implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The scheme is centrally sponsored with a proposed budgetary allocation of Rs. 950.00 lakhs during 7th Plan, with a view to cover 50,000 worksheds and houses. The State Govt. have been addressed letters requesting them to recommend model units and designs keeping in view the overall cost of the scheme, for consideration of HUDCO. The scheme envisages House & workshed with a cost estimate of Rs. 6,000/- and Rs. 3,000/- for Rural and Rs. 12,000/- and Rs. 3,000/- for Urban Houses and Workshed respectively. HUDCO shall provide a loan of Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 9,700/- for Rural and Urban housing, to be matched with equal contribution of Rs. 1500/- and Rs. 1,000/- each by Centre and State for rural and urban areas respectively. The spill over of Rs. 300/- in case of urban housing shall be contributed by the beneficiary.

The scheme also provides for construction of worksheds to be attached to the newly constructed house or to be attached to existing unit, if space permits. Rs. 3,000/- which is the approved cost for construction of worksheds, will be in the form of grant to be shared equally by Centre and States.

All the State Governments have been addressed letters whereby they have been requested to prepare project/schemes for Rural as well as Urban, House-cum-Worksheds and Worksheds to be attached to existing dwelling units. Each scheme should at least cover 50 units of Urban houses and 20 units of Rural houses in a particular Town/village. Special relaxation will however, be given to projects for hilly and tribal areas, on merit. While selecting venues, the State Government have been requested to emphasise on areas of handloom concentration.

The Central contribution to the scheme shall be in form of Grant-in-aid to the State Governments.

[Translation]

Special cell for complaints about Indian engineering goods

751. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Association of Indian Engineering Industries has decided to set up a special cell to attend to the importers' complaints about the standard of Indian engineering goods imported by them;

(b) if so, how Government propose to help this Association in maintaining the level and standard of engineering goods exported from the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) With a view to deal with problems and complaints regarding quality of engineering goods the Association of India's Engineering Industry has set up a quality Assurance Board.

(b) and (c) Government always welcomes any effort made by the Industry for self regulation of quality of our exports and provides all possible assistance wherever necessary.

[English]

Renovations and Expansions of Textile Mills taken over by NTC in Beawar and Bijay Nagar in Rajasthan

752. SHRI VISHNI MODI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total capital invested by Government on the renovations and expansions of the textile mills taken over by N.T.C. in Beawar and Bijay Nagar in Rajasthan and the mill-wise and year-wise break up thereof ;

(b) whether these mills have been running in losses since they were taken over;