

Reduction of Excise Duty on Synthetic Fibre and Blended Yarn.

4898. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the series of excise duty reductions on synthetic fibres and blended yarn announced on or about 28 August, 1985 are not passed on to the consumers ;

(b) if so, Governments findings thereon ; and

(c) if the duty reductions are not passed on to the consumer, the manner in which Government now propose to move in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) (a) to (c) After the excise duty reductions on certain synthetic fibres and blended yarns announced on August 28, 1985, prices of fabrics using these fibres and blended yarns have generally shown a declining trend. Government is keeping a constant watch over the situation.

Closure of Powerlooms in Bhiwandi

4899. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of powerlooms which have been closed and of those which are working in the Bhiwandi area of Maharashtra ;

(b) the reasons for the closure of the said powerlooms ;

(c) the amount of rebate given in 'Zakat' to powerloom industry ;

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw this rebate and the people are closing their factories due to frustration ;

(e) the daily wages of powerloom workers ;

(f) whether any instruction have been issued by his Ministry to ensure payment of full wages to them ; and

(g) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) (a) and (b) There are about 1.12 lakh powerlooms with valid permits in Bhiwandi. The levels of weaving activity change from time to time depending upon market conditions. While there is currently some reduction in the level of weaving activity, no precise estimate is available regarding the exact number of closed powerlooms.

(c) Octori duty (zakat) on yarn is payable at the concessional rate of 1%.

(d) There is at present no such proposal with the Government of Maharashtra.

(e) The minimum wages payable in terms of the notification issued by Government of Maharashtra, are about Rs. 1046 per month for a weaver in Bhiwandi. This notification was challenged in the High Court of Bombay and as per orders of the High Court, 75% of the said wages are to be paid during the pendency of the matter in Court.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Robbery in Bank of India, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Raipur City Branch

4900. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 16 lakh was looted from Mahatma Gandhi Road, Branch of Bank of India located in the middle of Raipur city ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither security guard was there in the branch nor its alarm was working ;

(c) the number of persons arrested so far in this connection and the amount recovered from them ;

(d) whether Government have taken any action against the security guard and the persons responsible for non-working of alarm ;

(e) if so, the details in this regard ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) Bank of India has reported that a sum of Rs. 16,56,456/- was looted from its Raipur Branch on 26th October, 1985.

(b) to (f) The Bank has reported that the Branch had not been provided with an armed guard. The Bank has further reported that the Branch had been provided with an electronic alarm bell and a simple alarm bell. However, while the simple alarm bell was in working condition, the electronic alarm bell was not in working condition since August, 1985 and the Bank had taken up the matter with the firm for its repairs but with no response. After examining the after-sales-service of the firm at other branches, the Bank proposes to write to the Indian Banks' Association to blacklist the name of the firm which had installed the electronic alarm at the Banks' Raipur Branch.

(c) The Bank has reported that the police has arrested five persons in this connection and has recovered a sum of Rs. 16,32,611/-.

[English]

Assistance to Indian Spun-Silk Manufacturers.

4901. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that China is dumping its silk due to which the Indian spun-silk manufacturers are finding it difficult to break-even ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the advance licence and replenishment licence scheme have created havoc in silk industry ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to stop the dumping of silk by China and assist the Indian spun-silk manufacturers to become self-reliant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) (a) No, Sir. Import of Spun Silk Yarn is allowed only for export purposes under the Advance Licensing and Replenishment Schemes of the Import-Export Policy which inter-alia provides checks for proper utilisation of the same.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. However, there exists a linkage system under the Import-Export Policy to assist Indian Spun Silk manufacturers in procuring raw material (Silkwaste) at reasonable prices.

[Translation]

Paper on the long Term Tourism Scheme

4902. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is working on a paper on the long-term tourism schemes ;

(b) if so, the time by which this paper will be finalised ; and

(c) whether various State Governments have also been consulted in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) The Seventh Five Year Plan document submitted to the Planning Commission sets forth the policy and the programme of the Department for the development of tourism infrastructure during the five year period. The document has kept in view the long-term perspective.