

(c) whether tele-communication authorities were consulted or had given their views in the matter before orders were placed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The imported coins are identical in shape, size and composition to the coins being minted in our own mints. The question therefore does not arise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Stock Piling of Handloom and Khadi Goods

5060. SHRI P. A. ANTHONY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of stock piling of handloom and Khadi goods ;

(b) whether this is on account of Government Departments not purchasing handloom goods ; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue instructions in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) As far as handlooms are concerned, some stock piling is a normal phenomenon since the demand is seasonal. As intimated by the Ministry of Industry, there is no stock piling of Khadi and the production and sale of Khadi have been keeping pace.

(b) There has been no regular purchase of handloom products by Government departments. The handloom agencies tender alongwith others for Govt. purchases.

(c) In view of the present practice of purchase of handloom products by Government and the stock piling, Government are moving towards introduction of a limited tender system for this purpose.

Steps Taken to Reduce Import of Palm Oil, Rubber etc.

5061. SHRI P. A. ANTHONY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures being taken by Government to reduce imports of palm oil, rubber, etc. ; and

(b) whether new areas have been identified to grow such crops so that imports could be reduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) With a view to increasing indigenous availability and thereby reducing imports of palm oil, a pilot project on plantation of oil palm is being implemented in Kerala by Oil Palm India Limited, Kottayam, which is a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Kerala. Oil palm is also being raised in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

As regards rubber, the Rubber Board is providing subsidies extension advisory support rainguarding materials, high yielding planting materials etc. to growers and is also undertaking research on various aspects of rubber cultivation, with a view to increasing rubber production in the country. Rubber cultivation is also being encouraged in all North Eastern States, West Bengal, Orissa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

Accountability of Officers for Losses in Hindustan Copper Limited

5062. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2974 on 6th December, 1985, regarding the losses in Hindustan Copper Limited and state :

(a) the exact nature of ore gradation and scale of operation design deficiencies in certain sections etc., and whether any responsibility for such affairs has been fixed on individual officers of the Company ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the extent of accountability of officers working in Khetri and Malanjkhand ;

(c) whether Government have received serious complaints against some odd deeds of senior officials of the said two copper complexes ;

(d) whether huge expenditures have been regularly incurred towards transportation of ore from Malanjkhand to Khetri ;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon ; and

(f) the details of modernisation of smelters and refineries being undertaken and whether any foreign agencies are involved therewith ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Transfer of Mining work to Gujarat State Mineral Development Corporation

5063. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any application from Gujarat Government for transfer of mining work to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Handloom Development Corporation

5064. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons why the headquarters of National Handloom Development Corporation has been set up at Lucknow instead of Delhi ; and

(b) whether Government propose to open its branches in all the State capitals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The Government of India considered it desirable to locate the headquarters of the National Handloom Development Corporation in a state which has a large number of handlooms and needs infrastructural support in order to provide fillip to the growth of the handloom sector. Hence, it was decided to locate the head-quarters of National Handloom Development Corporation at Lucknow.

(b) The Corporation has opened its regional offices in Bombay, Coimbatore and Gauhati. It has also opened yarn depots at Gauhati, Biharshariff and Bhagalpur. Opening of offices/yarn depots elsewhere will depend on operational requirements

Evasion of Customs Duty by Misusing Advance-Free Import Licences

5065. SHRI K. S. RAO :
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that customs duty to the tune of over Rs. 1,000 crores have been evaded by misuse of advance free import licence by some parties ;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (a) and (b) It is a fact that misuse of advance licences under the Duty Exemption Scheme has been noticed. These abuses consist of either non-fulfilment of the export obligations or misutilisation of the duty free material