

approached National Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) for providing Technical and Management Services for a new Silk Mill at Tlemcen Algeria. National Textile Corporation is providing necessary technical assistance to NIDC in this regard. A delegation, including the Managing Director of NTC, has visited Algeria in July, 1985 and progress has been made in discussing a contract for the said purpose.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban imposed by USA on import of Indian handloom goods

3784. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether handloom units in India are facing trouble because of ban imposed by U.S.A. on import of Indian handloom goods in that country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to help the handloom units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Exports of handloom made-up products from India are likely to suffer on account of a restrictive definition of the term hand-made notified by the US Government on June 24, 1985. According to this definition exports of handlooms made-ups from India and other countries which are machine stitched or hemmed will not qualify for exempt status but instead be treated as mill-made items.

(b) Government have formally protested against the restrictive action of the US Government in regard to exports of handloom made-ups from India and have also sought formal consultations with the Government of USA to resolve this problem.

Multi-fibre agreement at Geneva

3785. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

SHRI B.V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India attended the talks on Multi-Fibre Agreement at Geneva which were held from July 23, 1985;

(b) if so, whether the question of continuing with MFA in regard to European Economic Community was discussed there; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to have bilateral talks with EEC on the MFA particularly in regard to restrictions placed by EEC on several Indian textile items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The MFA in a multilateral instrument within whose framework bilateral agreements are entered into by the signatories to the MFA. The EEC proposed that the MFA should be extended beyond its present term which expires in July 1986. Discussions on the future of the MFA are held in the Textile Committee of GATT which is the appropriate forum for the purpose,

Tax arrears in the country

3786. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Income-tax and Central Excise arrears in the country as a whole at present;

(b) the amount locked up in legal cases;

(c) the number of companies against whom Income-tax and Central Excise amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs and above are outstanding; and

(d) the effective measures bring taken to recover the same and bring the defaulters to book ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The amount of Income-tax and Central Excise arrears in the country as a whole are as under :

Income Tax : The latest figures of Income-tax arrears are available as on 31.12.84. As on that date, the figures of Tax in Arrears and Demand Created but not fallen due are as under :—

(In crores of rupees)

Tax in arrears. 1271.98

Demand created but not fallen due. 608.55

Central Excise : A total of Rs. 521.63 crores is pending recovery as on 31.5 1985.

(b) Cases are pending before various judicial authorities involving various grounds. However, quantification of revenue involved is possible only after decision of the appellate authorities/courts are available.

(c) The number of companies against whom income-tax amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs and above are outstanding as on 31.3 1985 is 964. The number of the companies from whom central excise arrears amounting to more than Rs. 10 lakhs are outstanding is very large and the time and labour involved in collecting the information will be dis-proportionately high. However, if the Hon'ble Member specifies any particular factory or group of factories the information can be collected and furnished.

(d) Recovery of arrears of Income-tax and Central excise is an on going function and such measures (administrative legal and others which may be persuasive and coercive) as are considered necessary are taken from time to time.

Ostentatious expenditure cases detected by income tax authorities

3787 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 757 on 22nd March, 1985 regarding ostentatious expenditure cases detected by Income Tax authorities and state :

(a) the guidelines issued in the matter, as asked for in part (b) of the question referred to above;

(b) whether he will state some typical cases of this nature in which action has been taken in actual practice to serve as a deterrent; and

(c) the nature of action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Guidelines denote that the ostentatiousness of the expenditure will depend on the status of the assessee with reference to the expenditure which is debited in the books of accounts or is admitted by him. In two cases the enquiries made u/s 133A(5) resulted in declaration of amounts of Rs. 4,85,686 and Rs. 3,84,083 as marriage expenses by assesseees.

Contraband goods carried by sagar shakti vessel

3788. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Blitz' of 18 May, 1985 wherein it has been stated that Sagar Shakti Vessel (drilling) was built in Singapore and brought to India in 1982;

(b) whether it has also been stated that while coming to India, this vessel carried a lot of contraband goods like colour TV sets, etc. and the Custom Department rummaged the vessel and interrogated;