

Goods) Scheme under which exporters can import machinery items at 25% import duty subject to export obligation of three times the CIF value of goods imported in four years or at 15% import duty subject to export obligation of four times the CIF value of goods imported in five years.

- (iii) imports of second hand textile machinery allowed subject to licensing. However machinery required for manufacture of made-ups could be imported without licensing requirements.
- (iv) organising Buyer-Seller Meets and participation in fairs abroad.
- (v) providing encouragement to manufacturer-exporters and non-quota exporters through appropriate Quota Policy measures etc.

#### **Tripartite Agreement Between Labour and NTC**

1525. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of two tripartite agreements concluded in 1991 among the labour, the Government of West Bengal and the management of the National Textile Corporation Limited (WBABO);

(b) whether the terms were implemented by all parties to the agreements;

(c) if not, whether any responsibility has been fixed for non-compliance of the said agreements;

(d) the reasons for non-availability of the required quantity of cotton to the mills;

(e) the losses incurred by the Corporation; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The main terms of the Tripartite Agreements signed on 16.8.1991 and 19.10.1991 were the introduction of South India Textile Research Association (SITRA) workload norms, merger of four units into two and increase of Variables Darness Allowance (VDA) from 1.30 per point to 1.65 per point.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Adequate quantity of cotton could not be purchased due to shortage of working capital.

(e) NTC (WBABO) Ltd. incurred provisional each loss of Rs. 34.33 crores during 1991-92.

(f) NTC has prepared a package for restructuring & Modernisation of mills under NTC (WBABO) Ltd. as Part of its turn around strategy.

#### **Decline in Textile Production**

1526. SHRIGEORGE FERNADES:  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSAN  
SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of textiles has declined during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to increase production to textiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK  
GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) High prices of Cotton and Yarn,

(ii) Sluggish demand for textile items.

(c) and (d). Government have implemented following schemes for increasing production of textiles in the country;

- (i) In the new Industrial Policy there is no restriction on setting up of mill/ decentralised powerloom except locational restriction.
- (ii) Textile Machinery can be imported and duty on such machinery has already been reduced in present budget.
- (iii) Textile Modernisation Fund which was created in 1986 has proved to be effective and it has been decided to continue this scheme.
- (iv) Financial assistance for modernisation of handlooms.
- (v) Scheme of training a cadre of 'Bunker Sevaks' for assisting weavers in transfer to improved technology.
- (vi) Government have proposed to open more powerloom Service Centres in the VIII Five Year Plan Period.

[*Translation*]

#### **Simplification of Customs Rules**

1527. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN  
SHARAN SINGH:  
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:  
SHRI DATTARAYA  
BANDARU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have

simplified the rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations for further increasing the duty free allowance under the baggage rules; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR  
THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The General Free Allowance under the Baggage Rules, 1978 has been enhanced from Rs. 2400 to Rs. 3000/-. For the passengers arriving from Sri Lanka, the General Free Allowance has been placed at par with the passengers coming from Maldives. The value limit of 13 dutiable items allowed to be imported under Transfer of Residence Rules has been raised from rupees one lakh twenty thousand to rupees one lakh fifty thousand. The said concession has also now been allowed on the articles purchased in transit. For the passengers availing Transfer of Residence, the Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 have been liberalised by allowing condonation of short fall of residence in India for valid reasons. The Tourist Baggage Rules, 1978 have been updated so as to include items like TV sets, Lap-top computers, Compact Discs and Video Cameras

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (c) above.

[*English*]

#### **Foreign Exchange Reserves**

1528. SHRI CHANDFRA JEET  
YADAV:  
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: