

(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: