

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a large number of battery operated buses have been discontinued in the Capital; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Delhi Energy Development Agency have introduced Battery Buses in the Capital.

(b) 32 buses are plying on the following routes covering the walled city area of Delhi.

1. ISBT to Fatehpur
2. Red Fort to Fatepuri
3. Pahar Ganj to Bara Tooti
4. Fatehpuri to Connaught Place
5. ISBT to Connaught Place.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No specific date can be indicated.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The operation of the existing fleet of battery operated buses has been affected due to frequent chopper controller problems.

Welfare Scheme for Weavers

1892. SHRI M.G. REDDY:
SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom weavers are facing acute crisis in the country especially in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to conduct any survey in this regard or have introduced any new scheme for the welfare of handloom weavers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have laid any emphasis on the welfare of the weavers and to ensure that the weavers engaged in production particularly of Janta cloth get a regular and reasonable wages; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GHELOT): (a) and (b). While there are no specific reports, handloom weavers all over the country including in Bihar are affected by constant fluctuations in yarn prices and poor off-take of finished products.

(c) Government of India has detailed data base and have also introduced/or modified schemes for the welfare of the handloom weavers.

(d) Workshed-cum-housing scheme has been modified from 1991-92 providing for higher subsidy assistance for construction of workshed-cum-houses. A new scheme called Group Insurance Scheme has been introduced from the year 1992-93 which provides for an insurance cover of Rs. 10,000/- to the beneficiary handloom weaver.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Stringent guidelines have been issued under the Janata Cloth Scheme

recurring each implementing agency to ensure that reasonable wages are paid regularly to weavers. The concerned State Government are also required to conduct periodical physical inspections to ensure this aspect.

Scooter Advance

1893. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the amount of advance being given to the Central Government employees for purchase of scooter is much less than the actual cost of scooter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the amount of scooter advance given during second time is further reduced;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to sanction the amount equivalent to the actual cost of scooter each time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). Under the existing rules, Government employees drawings a basis pay of Rs. 1500 and above months are eligible for grant of advance for purchase of motor cycle/scooter. The amount of advance is Rs. 13,000 or 8 months basic pay of the anticipated price of the motor cycle/scooter, whichever is the least. The Government employees have also the option to draw an advance of

withdrawal from their General Provident Fund accounts upto Rs. 8000 to meet the short fall, if any between the advance and the actual cost of the scooter/motor cycle. In view of the resources constraints, it is not possible to increase the amount of scooter/motor cycle advance.

(c) and (d). The amount of scooter/motor cycle advance on the second and subsequent occasions is restricted to Rs. 10,000 or 6 months basis pay or the anticipated price of the scooter whichever is the least, because the employees get the sale proceeds of the old scooter also which can be utilised for the purchase of scooter/motor cycle.

(e) In view of the position stated at (a) to (d) above, the question does not arise.

Persons Arrested under Fera and Cofeposa

1894. SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of smuggling Activities Act, 1974 during 1991 and 1992;

(b) whether some Custom officials alleged to have been found associated with these persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI