

Wool Development Board

7403 SHRI N. J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wool Development Board was constituted for the strengthening of the carpet industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether the target fixed for 1992-93 by the said Board has been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the production of carpets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Wool Development Board has been constituted to harmonise working amongst different sectors of woollen industry with an integrated policy of development.

(d) Government have taken following steps to increase the production of carpets;

(1) Government has established carpet weaving training centres throughout the country.

(2) Carpet training centre being run by State/central handicraft Development Corporations, voluntarily Organisations and Apex societies are also financed through grants, sanctioned by the Ministry of Textiles.

Transfer of RRBs to State sector

7404. KUMARI POUSSHA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to the State sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above proposals is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Trading in Banned Articles Through Mail System

7405. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal system is increasingly being used as a channel for sending out of the country wildlife products, the trade of which is banned by the convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as well as by the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) whether a number of parcels at foreign Post Offices at the four metros go through undetected; and

(c) if so, steps being taken by the Government to check such cases of trading in banned articles through the mail system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY): (a) There is no information to indicate that the postal system is increasingly being used as a channel for sending out of the country wildlife products. However, there has been a marginal increase in the number of seizures of banned wildlife products during the last financial year.

(b) All suspected parcels at Foreign Post Offices are thoroughly examined by Customs staff. On detection, prohibited articles are seized and confiscated.