

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.

(c) Constant vigilance is being maintained by Customs authorities to prevent import and export of any banned articles through the mail system

Export Earnings

7406. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI RAMESHWAR
PATIDAR:
SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:
SHRI C. P.
MUDALGIRAYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earned /made through exports of ready-made garments, leather goods (including leather garments/gms items of stationery, diamonds, gold, come and jewellery precious and semprecious stones and pearls during each of the last three years, countrse;

(b) whether any targets were fixed for the above period and the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any decline in exports of these items during 1992-93;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to popularise these items abroad and provide infrastructure facilities to the artisans to improve the quality?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Information called for is voluminous. The details of items exported country-wise are published in volume 1 of the Monthly statistics of the foreign Trade of India (Annual Number) by DGCI & S, Calcutta. This publication is presently available only upto

91-92. The Annual Number for 92-93 has not become due. These publications are made available to the Lok Sabha Library.

(b) and (c). Export targets are set for broad commodity groups on financial year basis. Targets for the year 1990-91 and 1992-93 are give in Annexure. No targets were fixed for 1991-92. Export targets for 93-94 have not been set.

(d) and (e). Latest issue of the monthly Brochure entitled 'Foreign Trade statistics of India (principal Commodities & Countries) published by DGIE&S, Calcutta is available for the period, April January 1992-93. Trade statistics are classified into principal commodities and countries in this publication. As per the information available in this Brochure, the export of gems and jewelry (which includes diamonds, gold, precious and semiprecious stones and pearls), ready-made garments and leather and manufactures have registered increase over the corresponding period of 91-92. Statistics for the 'Items of Stationery' are not separately available.

(f) Steps taken for export promotion comprise measures such as allowing import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, making available quality raw metals, participation in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions abroad and organising manpower training.

Growth in IDBI Business

7407. DR. D. VENKATESWARARAO:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has recorded a growth in its business by 11.9 per cent in 1991-92 over the previous year; ;

(b) if so, the total loans sanctioned in 1990-91 and to what extent the increase has helped the industries;

(c) the details of the projects for which the