

The project will be considered by the Union Government only after its techno-economic feasibility is confirmed by the Central Silk Board.

### **Decline In Air Traffic**

2564. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-  
SAHEB TOPE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the air traffic;

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

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There has been no significant decline in the international air traffic to/from India or domestic air traffic during the last 3 years.

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

### **Handloom Development Centre**

2565. DR. VISHWANATHAN KANITHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost involved in implementing the Scheme for Setting up of 3000 Handloom Development Centres and 500 Quality Dyeing Units for handloom weavers; and

(b) the allocation made for the purpose during the current financial year, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.

VENKAT SWAMY): (a) the total estimated cost over a period of 4 years works out to Rs. 849 crores out of which a sum of Rs. 321 crores would be Central Grant and Rs. 528 crores concessional loan through NABARD re-finance.

(b) A provision of Rs. 19.00 crores has been made for the Scheme of Setting up Handloom Development Centres and the grant component of Project Package Scheme. No State-wise allocation has been made.

### **Patent of Micro-Organisms**

2566. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some American firms have patented micro-organisms collected from India without Government's consent;

(b) the number of micro-organisms already patented by the U.S. firms; and

(c) the action the Government propose to check large scale and unregulated transfer of bio-diversity to foreign countries while the Indian Laws have not been changed in line with the convention of bio-diversity as yet?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKERHJEE): (a) and (b). The Indian Patents Act does not provide for the patenting of micro-organisms patented by US firms abroad is not maintained by Government. Collection of micro-organisms from India does not require presently Government's consent.

(c) Government is drafting legislation for the conservation of biological diversity in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Bio-Diversity, to which India is a signatory.