

PDS is purely a trading activity, to be supported by State Governments as a welfare scheme, the Cooperative Banks may have to support the scheme out of their own resources

[Translation]

Export of Cotton

2570 SHRI JAGMIT SINGH BRAJ
SHRI NITISH KUMAR

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the prices of cotton in the country has been more as compared to the prices at which it was exported during the previous years

(b) if, so, the minimum and the maximum rates of the various qualities of cotton in the country during the years 1992-93 and the 1993-94 and the minimum and maximum rates thereof in the international market during the above period,

(c) whether the country has suffered financial loss due to such export of cotton during aforesaid years

(d) if so the loss suffered during each aforesaid years and

(e) the reasons for which the Government have adopted the policy of making export of cotton from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) No Sir

(b) to (d) Does not arise

(e) While releasing the exportable surplus of cotton for export the objectives of the Government are stabilisation of the prices in the domestic market, provision of remunerative prices to the cotton growers and to maintain India's presence in the international market as a staple supplier of cotton

[English]

Banking Relations with China

2571 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement has been signed between India and China for establishing banking relations,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be effective, and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), on Banking Cooperation has been signed by RBI with the People's Bank of China on 22nd October, 1994. Both the Central Banks of India and China have reached an understanding that SBI and other major Indian banks shall strengthen correspondent banking arrangements with Chinese banks operating in China and outside India for handling of trade and economic relations in accordance with the regulations in both the countries. Both banks shall also consider favourably the opening of representative offices by banks from the other country subject to current regulations existing in each country.

(c) RBI has reported that the terms of the MOU have become effective from the date of signing i.e. 22nd October 1994.

(d) The RBI has intimated that it is expected to result in increased trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in view of the present economic strengths of India and China.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages

2572 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that minimum and prescribed wages are not being paid to the workers in a number of establishments

(b) if so whether the Government have taken any action in this regard or have held or are going to hold any discussions with the representative of State Governments in this regard

(c) if so the details thereof and

(d) the action taken by the Government to ensure the adherence of Minimum Wages Act by such violating establishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P A SANGMA) (a) to (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both the Central and the State Governments are appropriate Government for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages prescribed under the Act. The appropriate Governments have set up enforcement machinery to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Act. The enforcement machinery takes appropriate action whenever any violation of the Act comes to their notice. There have been complaints inside and outside the Parliament regarding violations of the provisions of the Act. This issue has been discussed at various fora such as the Indian Labour Conference, the Labour Ministers' Conference and the recently held Regional Labour Ministers' Conferences. Based on the deliberations at these fora, the State Governments have been advised to strengthen the enforcement machinery by taking the help of other departments like Revenue, Welfare