

accumulation of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income of the Government servants;

(b) the details of such letters and the action taken on each of them; and

(c) the details of the cases registered if any?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Handicrafts Item

2703. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a workshop was organised at Calcutta during the last month to put handicraft export on a fast trajectory course i.e. the process of identifying new markets and new products for extreme focus;

(b) if so, the achievements of this Workshop and

(c) the measures taken to achieve the target of export of handicraft items worth Rs.3,500 crore fixed for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A workshop with the title "Success through handicraft exports" was organised by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts at Calcutta on 7th July, 1996. The purpose of this workshop was to get acquainted the new women entrepreneurs participated in the said workshop.

(c) In order to achieve the target of Rs.3500 crores fixed for export of handicrafts (excluding hand-knotted carpets), the measures taken include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, organisation of buyer-seller meets, overseas publicity and publication of catalogues, conducting of seminars and workshops, organisation of the recently instituted international Handicrafts and Gifts Fair and the international Carpet Expo and technology upgradation for achieving higher standard of quality of Indian handicrafts.

Bench of Guwahati High Court

2704. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up a bench of Guwahati High Court at Dibrugarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Assam, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court, for establishing a High Court Bench at Dibrugarh.

Industrially Backward Districts

2705. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts in Kerala declared industrially Backward;

(a) the privileges/benefits being given to entrepreneurs in these districts;

(c) whether hilly districts which are Industrially backward are to be given any special benefit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) At present, there is no backward district declared in Kerala State.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Production of Cloth

2706. SHRI HARADAHAN ROY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The per capita annual demand/consumption/production of cloth in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the cloth is being produced as per the requirement of the country.

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to increase the production of cloth; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed for 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The data on per capita annual demand/consumption of cloth in the country is not maintained. The per capita production and availability of cloth in the country during each of the last three years is as follows:

(in Sq. Mtrs.)

Year	per capita Production	Per capita availability
1993-94	31.4	26.22
1994-95	21.6	25.67
1995-96 (Provisional)	33.2	27.37

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The Government have taken various steps from time to time to increase the availability of cloth in the country such as liberalisation of licensing provision, fiscal restructuring, special attention to the production of handloom cloth, permitting import of textile machinery under OGL and reduction of customs duty on such imports, research and development, etc. It is estimated that during 1996-97 the production of cloth in the country would be around 29,500 million sq. mtrs as per the Working Group Report on the Textile Industry for the 8th Five Year plan period (1992-97).

Jute Mills

2707. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Jute mills and Textile mills in West Bengal as on March 31, 1996; and

(b) the total number of cases pending before BIFR both from Textiles and jute units of West Bengal as on March 31, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) As on 31.3.96, total number of jute mills in West Bengal was 59. Besides, 42 Cotton/Man made fibre textile mills in the State were registered with the Office of Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

(b) As reported by the BIFR, from West Bengal 11 cases in jute sector and 2 cases in textile sector were pending with BIFR as on 31.3.96

Seizure of Water Turtles

2708. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs officials at Malda in West Bengal seized some 1,500 fresh-water turtles allegedly being smuggled to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the "invisible hands" behind the turtles smuggling have been identified; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them as also to enquire their end use?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, customs authorities at Mohedipur Land Customs Station in the State of West Bengal seized 1500 fresh water turtles while attempted to be smuggled from India to Bangladesh.

(c) and (d). Two persons found involved have been arrested and prosecution against them has been launched. Further investigations in the matter are in progress. Investigations conducted so far have not revealed involvement of any person other than the two arrested persons. It is learnt that these turtles are used for display in domestic aquariums.

[Translation]

Industrial Growth

2709. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed the target of achieving 7-8 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Production and 12 per cent in Industrial growth;

(b) if so, the measures taken to expand and strengthen the basic infrastructure required for the same;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The common minimum programme envisages GDP growth of 7% per year. Industrial Growth is also proposed to be maintained at 12% per year.

(b) to (d). Development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and communication is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The Government is already considering extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through deregulation of production and distribution. Foreign investment in these sectors is also being encouraged to supplement domestic resources. Union Budget 1996-97 has proposed establishment of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised share capital of Rs.5000 crores to act as a direct lender, as a refinancing institution and as a provider of financial guarantees. To step up investment in infrastructure, a levy of 2% as special custom duty on all imports except those that carry a nil rate of duty or are imported at nil rate of custom duty for export production has also been proposed. Tax concessions have also been extended to infrastructure sector.

Textile Mills in M.P.

2710. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of textiles mills in Madhya Pradesh and the number of mills closed down out of them;

(b) the total number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of these mills;

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take to solve unemployment problem, caused by the closure of these textile mills;

(d) whether the Government propose to sell some of the lands belonging to the closed textile mills to help in re-open the mills; and

(e) if so, the textile mills which have been allowed to sell their lands?