

(c) and (d). Production depends on various factors like the health of the plants, adequate availability of the right quality of inputs and the market needs. Efforts are made to attain high capacity utilisation by proper maintenance and inputs of the desired quality.

As a long term measure output of steel in the country will also be increased by technological upgradation of existing plants and setting up of new steel plants.

Facilities for Growth of Handicrafts and Handlooms

2830. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared a programme for giving all facilities for the growth of handicrafts and handlooms and undating their technology under the revised 20-Point Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the programme is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether any special steps are being taken to introduce this plan in Adivasi area also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As in the statement attached.

(d) and (e). All the development programmes are equally applicable to tribal areas as well.

Statement

Handicrafts. The programmes for promoting growth of handicrafts include training

of craftsmen, marketing, providing assistance to State Corporations and Apex Cooperative Societies for setting up of Raw Material Depots and Common Facility Centres in Crafts concentration areas, opening of sales outlets in important towns and cities and providing assistance to states for primary cooperatives for handicrafts workers. For updating of technology for handicrafts there are at present four regional Design and Technical Development Centres in addition to National Institutes of hand printed textiles and cane and bamboo. Further, a scheme of providing design assistance to State Handicrafts Corporations/Apex Cooperative Societies and for supply of tools and equipment at subsidised rates is also being implemented.

Handlooms. The main policy of the Government is directed towards the creation of an infrastructure in the form of Cooperatives and State Handloom Development Corporations for providing a package of inputs like supply of yarn, credit, marketing etc. Emphasis is also being laid on modernisation of looms to increase the productivity and the earnings of the weavers. The Weavers Service Centres and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology are engaged in continuous research for updating technology in the handloom sector.

Metal Exploration in Kerala by GSI

2831. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discoveries have been made during the metal explorations so far undertaken in Kerala by the Geological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b). In the course of the surveys, the Geological Survey of India indentified the occurrence of some of the following important mineral prospects in Kerala :

Mineral	Estimated Reserves (in lakh tonnes)	Location
Iron ore (31 to 41% Iron)	882.9	Kozhikode and Malapuram District
Bauxite (all grade)	158.9	Quilon, Trivandrum and Cannanore districts
Graphite (20% fixed carbon)	15.6	Ernakullam, Idukki, Kottayam Quilon and Trivandrum
Gold (Placer and Primary)	—	Malapuram District (Recognisance survey carried out to locate gold prospects)

Pending Claims of L.I.C.

2832. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the pending claims ratio of Life Insurance Corporation of India at present to total claims;

(b) whether this is comparable to insurance companies in other countries; and

(c) the ratio of death claims repudiated by the LIC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The ratio of amount of pending death and maturity claims to the total claims of LIC as on 31st March, 1984 was 12.64%.

(b) Yes, Sir. The ratio of outstanding claims as per the latest available figures of a few leading foreign insurance companies are given below:

Metropolitan Life (31-12-1983)	15.0%
Norwich Union (31-12-1982)	10.5%
Prudential (31-12-1981)	13.4%

(c) In 1983-84, death claims for Rs. 1.68 crores were repudiated and the ratio of these claims to the total death claims amounting to Rs. 98.75 crores intimated during the year comes to 1.70%.

Export of Silver for Payment of Gold Import

2833. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council had suggest export of silver to pay for gold import to strengthen country's jewellery export potential as reported in the 'Financial Express' of March 6, 1985;

(b) if so, Government reaction thereto;

(c) whether any scheme for such exchange of silver for gold will be instituted; and

(d) whether there is a large outgo of silver from the country through smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) In an interview published in the Financial Express dated 6th March, 1985, Chairman, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council has suggested that it would be desirable to adopt a scheme whereby silver exports could be linked to gold imports. However, no details of the scheme have been spelt out in the news-item nor have the Government received any detailed scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such scheme is under Government's consideration.

(d) Not at present.