

Field of Operation of the Cooperative Marketing Federation

2922. SHRI P. R. KUMAR-MANGALAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that there are marketing cooperative societies for handlooms and textiles *viz.* the Cooptex of Tamil Nadu which are buying textiles from non-cooperative societies and marketing the same while handloom weavers cooperative societies have crores of rupees of stock in inventory; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated to ensure that Cooperative Marketing Federations restrict their field of operation only to products of the cooperative societies and private handloom weavers so that, these cooperative societies and weavers do not suffer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) State Government of Tamil Nadu has confirmed that Cooptex is procuring handlooms cloth only from the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies, and no procurement has been made from non-cooperative.

(b) Does not arise.

Finalisation of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with U.S. Fiscal Experts

2923. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-level U. S. team of fiscal experts had visited India in the month of July, 1985 for finalising the "double taxation" avoidance agreement with India;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed;

(c) to what extent the suggestions of the high-level U.S. team have been accepted by Government; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) A five member Tax Delegation led by a Deputy

International Tax Counsel of U.S. Treasury visited New Delhi from July 22-26, 1985 to negotiate a double taxation avoidance Agreement between India and U.S.A.

(b) The U.S. Tax Delegation discussed with their counterparts in India the proposed drafts of the Agreement prepared by the two countries.

(c) Both sides put forward their respective points of view. No decision has been taken by the Government on the various issues discussed.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposed Strike by Bank Officers

2924. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank Officers have threatened to go on strike on alleged drastic modification of the agreement they arrived at with Indian Banks' Association;

(b) if so, the major demands of Bank Officers and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the details of impact of recent wage increases in banks profitability; and

(d) the changes Government made in the agreement between bank officers and the Indian Banks' Association ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) had in March, 1985 recommended for Government's consideration certain proposals relating to wage revision of officers in public sector banks. These recommendations provided for an increase in the total wage bill of officers by about Rs. 100 crores representing an increase of 16.7% which was higher than that approved for the Award staff. Government after examining the recommendations, agreed for a wage revision in terms of which the wage bill of officers is estimated to go up by about 13.5% and resulting in an increase of about Rs. 80 crores per year.