

**Scheme to take over the Surplus Lands of Sick Textiles Mills by Gujarat Government**

1029. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have approved the scheme to take over the surplus lands of sick textile mills and using the proceeds of sale of the lands to give soft loans to the sick mills as announced by the Gujarat Government;

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

(c) whether similar scheme is proposed to be approved in case of Bombay and Calcutta ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). The scheme of nationalisation of the Government of Gujarat regarding 12 closed textile mills in Ahmedabad involves restructuring and reorganisation of these mills to form fewer number of viable units. The merit of the scheme is that it is more or less a self-financing proposition involving re-employment of part of the workers rationalisation (without tears) for the rest with due terminal benefits. Government of India will provide funds as advance plan assistance to the State Government for implementing this scheme.

(c) No such proposal with similar features has been received by Government of India.

**Development of Tourism in Port Blair**

1030. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether as part of the diversification of tourism, two islands off Port Blair are proposed to be developed as beach resorts; and

(b) if so, the progress made in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The Government propose developing beach tourism in the Andaman Islands on a selective basis. In order to identify infrastructural requirements, a high powered team headed by the Minister for Tourism visited the Andamans last month. The suggestions of the group are under consideration.

**Closure of NTC Mills under going Heavy Losses**

1031. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the heaviest losing mills under the National Textile Corporation are proposed to be modernised exclusively for export production;

(b) whether a group of officers recommended closure of at least four out of the eight most heavily losing mills;

(c) if so, whether Government are not agreeable to close these mills;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry is making efforts to make certain changes so that those mills which are incurring losses may improve their position;

(e) if so the steps the Union Government have taken in this regard; and

(f) the extent to which these steps have improved the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) to (d). The Study team, which was constituted by the Government to undertake an indepth study of the working of 8 weakest mills, reported lack of viability by merely increasing the investment in these mills. It was felt that this matter need to be discussed further with representatives of the workers at the mill level and at NTC (Holding Company) level before a final