

owners have been representing to Delhi Administration for increase in the commission payable to them. Their precise demand was that the commission be increased in view of the price rise and increase in the rent of commercial premises.

(c) Delhi Administration has increased the commission on wheat and rice by Rs. 4 per quintal with effect from 1.2.1986 raising the per quintal commission to Rs. 10.00.

(d) For efficient functioning of Public Distribution System and to prevent diversion and other malpractices, the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation is delivering wheat, rice and sugar at the doorstep of the fair price shops. Regular raids are conducted by the Enforcement Branch of Delhi Administration suo moto or on receipt of complaints. Redressal of consumers' grievances is being given special attention. A programme of regular inspections has been laid down for all field officials.

[Translation]

**Sale of handloom cloth at controlled price**

138. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps for sale of handloom cloth at controlled price; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). Government of India have been implementing a scheme for production and sale of handloom cloth at controlled prices known as 'Janta Cloth Scheme', since October, 1976.

[English]

**Rise in issue prices of wheat, rice from public distribution system**

139. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the steep rise in the issue prices of wheat and rice from the public distribution system;

(b) whether Government are aware that this would hit hard the poor sections of the people who depend solely on the public distribution system and would also push up the prices in the open market; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the burden of increase announced in the procurement prices of these commodities is intended to be passed on to the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (c). The issue prices of wheat and rice have been revised as a consequence of the increases in the support prices of paddy and wheat.

(b) The Central issue prices of wheat and rice supplied through the public distribution system carry a heavy subsidy. The retail prices of wheat and rice are fixed by the State Governments generally after adding reasonable incidental costs to the Central issue prices. The increase in the Central issue prices of foodgrains may have a marginal effect on the open market prices.

**Problems in powerloom sector due to new textile policy**

140. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations have been received by Government from All-India Powerlooms Federation and other organisations of the Powerlooms regarding their problems arising out of the new textile policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the demands of the powerlooms; and

(c) the action taken by Government to remove the difficulties of the powerlooms, like provision of better credit facilities, supply of adequate quantities of yarn at reasonable prices, relief in excise duty etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The representations, *inter-alia* seek relaxation in the reservation of certain fabrics for exclusive production in the handlooms sector, reservation of certain varieties for exclusive production in the decentralised powerloom sector, a comprehensive notification for registration of powerlooms, multi-fibre flexibility, enumeration of powerlooms, restoration of excise differential in favour of powerlooms vis-a-vis the organised mill sector and formation of corporations to promote marketing and export of powerloom cloth.

Government do not propose to disturb the policy of providing protection to handlooms by reserving articles for their exclusive production in the handloom sector. Fibre flexibility has already been announced in the Textile policy. A press note has been issued regarding the procedure to be followed for regularisation of unauthorised powerlooms and issue of permits for installation of new powerlooms. Establishments of power operated looms are eligible for financial assistance programmes as are applicable to industrial units of their size in terms of investment, employment, etc. Further, the concerned State Governments have been asked to undertake organisation of powerloom cooperatives so as to facilitate better flow of institutional credit. Supply of adequate quantities of yarn at reasonable prices to powerlooms is dependent on the overall availability of yarn. The production of yarn is quite adequate at present and local shortages, if any, can be speedily rectified by contacting the mills, including certain NTC mills.

The existing policy provides that the healthy development of the powerloom sector should take place in the context of parity between powerlooms in the organised mill sector and in the unorganised powerloom sector.

#### Export of tea

141. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual quantity of tea (with value in foreign exchange) exported by the country by the end of 1985 as against the target and how does the export figures compare with that of 1984 end;

(b) to what extent Indian's share in tea export has reduced during the last five years with the competition from China, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Indonesia;

(c) whether in view of the experience gained, Government have considered the question of reviewing the existing policy on quota system to maintain its market share, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have explored the possibility of exports of Indian tea in the markets of Kuwait, Quater and West Asian countries like Saudi Arabia and Iraq ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Exports of tea during the past two years have been as under :

Year	Exports	
	Qty. (M. kgs.)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1984	217.0	740.45
1985 (Estimated)	222.4	711.90

Target of exports for 1985 was 220 M. kgs.)

(b) Table below indicates share of major producing countries in world tea exports during 1980 to 1984 :

(Share in world exports of tea-percentage)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
India	26.0	28.2	23.2	23.97	23.4
Sri Lanka	21.4	21.4	22.1	18.1	22.0
China	12.5	10.8	12.9	14.3	13.8
Kenya	8.7	8.8	9.7	11.5	9.8
Indonesia	7.9	8.3	7.8	7.9	9.8