

**Cheap Yarn to Handloom Weavers
in States**

1795. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure availability of cheap yarn to handloom weavers in various States, with special reference to the States in the North Eastern region?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): There is no scheme of the Central Government for supply of cheap/subsidised yarn to handloom weavers. However, the Government has taken/is taking the following steps to ensure the availability of yarn to handloom weavers:—

i) Government has imposed statutory obligation on all spinning mills to pack 50% of their marketable yarn in the form of hanks which are used by handloom weavers. Out of which, 85% should be in counts of 40s and below.

ii) Government has set up the National Handloom Development Corporation to arrange for supply of yarn to state handloom agencies which have been asked to place regular orders with the NHDC so that the NHDC could supply yarn at reasonable prices by obtaining bulk order concessions from the spinning mills.

iii) In order to ensure regular supply of yarn to the states of the North Eastern region, the NHDC has opened a branch office in Guwahati.

**Defence Establishments in Medak,
Andhra Pradesh**

1796. SHRI MANIK REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the defence establishments in Medak, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to establish some more defence establishments there; and

(c) if so, the details and the employment potential thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL):

(a) Two projects are being set up at Medak, one by Ordnance Factory Board and the other by Bharat Dynamics Ltd., which is a defence Public Sector Unit.

(b) There is no proposal to set up any other production unit.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Countries Visited by Minister of
External Affairs**

1797. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by the then External Affairs Minister during the months of May, June and July, 1987; and

(b) the outcome of the visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). The required information is given below.