

powerlooms. The main areas of powerlooms concentration are Bhiwandi, Malegaon, Ichalkaranji, Dhule, Sholapur, Bombay and Thane in Maharashtra; Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat; Kishanagarh in Rajasthan; Amritsar in Punjab; Meerut, Tanda and Maunath Bhanjan in U.P.; Gaya & Bhagalpur in Bihar; Calcutta in West Bengal; Belgaum, Bangalore and Doddaballapur in Karnataka and Erode, Madras, Maduari, Komarapallayam, Rajapallayam, Salem and Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c). Registration of powerlooms has been decentralised. Installation of new powerlooms is permitted subject to locational conditions. Full fibre flexibility has been allowed for cotton and art silk looms. NABARD provides refinance for both term loans and working capital to powerloom cooperative societies. IDBI also provides refinance. Government have constituted a Task Force to study the present flow of credit and to suggest measures to augment the flow of credit both for working capital and term loans for modernisation. The State Governments have been requested to encourage promotion of powerloom cooperatives so as to facilitate the provision of credit and marketing facilities. A scheme for establishment of Powerloom Service Centre is under implementation to provide technical assistance to powerlooms and help in their technological upgradation and product improvement. Incentives for export of cloth are also available for powerloom fabrics.

Settlement of Kampuchean issue

2978. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Laos have expressed a desire for India's help in settlement of Kampuchean issue; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). During the recent visit of Minister of State for External Affairs to Laos, the Government of Laos suggested that India could play an important role in settling the Kampuchean issue. We have conveyed our appreciation to the Government of Laos in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Shortage of yarn and capital for powerloom sector

2979. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently held talks in Jaipur with concerned parties on the issue of shortage of yarn, octroi and non-availability of capital for powerloom sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by Government for the development of this sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the discussions it was indicated that efforts must be made to undertake formation of cooperatives so that a suitable package of measures could be implemented for the development of the powerloom sector. The request for abolition of octroi has been referred to the State Govt. The availability of yarn at reasonable prices is under constant review by the Government. A Task Force has been set up to make specific recommendations regarding measures necessary to augment the flow of credit both for modernisation and working capital in the decentralised powerloom sector.