

been reserved for exclusive production by the handloom sector under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

[*Translation*]

**Facilities to weavers in Azamgarh**

3016. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are not providing any facility to weavers of Maunath Bhanjan, Mohammadabad and other places in Azamgarh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to ameliorate the condition of the weavers there and to help them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Central Government has various schemes for the development of the handloom sector and these are implemented through the State Governments. These schemes are implemented by the State Governments according to the programme drawn up by them. The Central Government has not issued any instructions to the Government of Uttar Pradesh not to implement these schemes in Maunath Bhanjan, Mohammadabad and other places in Azamgarh.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

**Publishing of Sainik Samachar in Kannada**

3017. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the languages in which the Defence Department's Weekly "Sainik Samachar" is being published at present;

(b) whether the same is being published

in Kannada, the regional language of Karnataka; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to publish the same in Kannada?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) At present, 'Sainik Samachar' is being published in English and eleven Indian languages, namely, Assamese, Bengali, Gorkhali, Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) An edition of 'Sainik Samachar' in Kannada could not be brought out so far due to lack of suitable editorial staff. Efforts are on to get suitable staff.

**Karnataka Government for increased silk production**

3018. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that Karnataka is a leading silk producing State in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government had suggested Union Government to ban replenishment schemes in the Import-Export Policy; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

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

(c) The import of silk by exporters under the ALS/REP schemes of the Import-Export Policy is allowed only for or against export of silk items as an export incentive measure. It is therefore not considered feasible to ban the import of silk under these schemes.