

Export of cotton

610. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries to which cotton is proposed to be exported;

(b) whether any trade agreement has been signed between India and any of those countries to export cotton; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Cotton is proposed to be exported to Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Portugal, Spain, West Germany, U.K., USA, Switzerland, France, Turkey, Algeria, Bangladesh, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Workshed-cum-housing schemes for handloom weavers of Karnataka

611. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested Union Government to take up workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for handloom weavers during Seventh Plan; and

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

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

(b) A sum Rs.1.65 lakhs was released to Government of Karnataka during 1985-86 for construction of 110 worksheds for handloom weavers.

Central assistance to Thrift Fund Scheme for handloom weavers

612. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested Union Government to extend Central assistance to the Thrift Fund Scheme for handloom weavers in the Seventh Plan; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Central Government has yet to receive a complete proposal from Government of Karnataka for extension of Thrift fund scheme to the handloom weavers in the State of Karnataka.

*[Translation]***Duty reduction on exports to EEC**

613. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the issue of removal/reduction of duty on exports was discussed by the Government with the EEC at the meeting of the Joint Commission held in the first week of January; and

(b) if so, the details of the final decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission of the EEC agreed to examine improving the access of Indian exports to the Community markets in terms of liberalising their generalised Scheme of Preferences.