

Towed Howitzers and support material worth \$ 44 million.

(c) Government are alert to the security implications of the continuing transfer of sophisticated arms to Pakistan. Such transfers lead to an arms race in the region and the diversion of resources from development to defence.

### **Mooga Silk Industry In Assam**

1010. PROF. PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of Assam's abiding tradition in weaving, handloom and sericulture with specialisation in producing and rearing Mooga, which is a unique variety of silk, available only in Assam;

(b) what steps have been taken to encourage and step-up the gradually diminishing returns in this traditional industry; and

(c) whether any special attention has been given to help and encourage Mooga cultivation and reeling ?

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

(b) and (c). In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Central Silk Board has established a Regional Muga Research Station at Mirza (Assam) with a Research Extension Centre at Borahibari to provide Research & Extension support for development of the Muga Silk Industry. The Board has also set up a Muga Raw Material bank at Sibsagar, with its sub-depot at Dhakuakhana, in order to ensure a fair price for the Muga cocoons produced in the region. In addition, the Board has launched a Muga Seed Development Project covering the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland at a total cost of Rs. 3.5 crores. The project aims at production of Commercial Muga Seed and creation of infrastructural facilities, including reeling,

for the development of Muga Silk Industry in the region.

Further, the Government of India, in collaboration with State Governments, including Assam, is implementing a number of schemes to develop the handloom industry. These schemes are designed to provide the necessary support in the areas of input-supply, design development, marketing, credit, etc., through the State Apex Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies and Handloom Development Corporations.

### **Encounter Between BSF Jawans and TNV Guerillas**

1011. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in May, 1987 some BSF Jawans were killed in an ambush by the TNV guerillas in Tripura and a number of other were wounded; and

(b) if so, the number of BSF Jawans killed by TNV guerillas during the last one year and the TNV guerillas killed in encounters with the BSF personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last one year till date the TNV has killed 3 BSF Jawans. No TNV extremist has been killed during this period in encounters. 8 TNV extremists have been arrested during the current year.

### **Increase In Cotton Prices**

1012. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton prices have registered an abnormal increase over 70 per cent during the last six months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the same?