

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.
DASMUNSI): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the accepted formula at the existing levels of international prices there is no case for reduction of Export Duty.

The Government is already engaged in evolving methods for regular updating of the MRP in consultation with the other concerned agencies.

**Problems of handloom sector in
Maharashtra**

4901. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government have written to Union Government about the problems of the handloom sector in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAMNIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Government of Maharashtra had written to the Government of India suggesting that the rate of subsidy on the production of Janata Cloth should be increased from Rs. 2/- per square metre to Rs. 3/- per square metre. Central govt. have since decided to increase the rate of subsidy on Janata Cloth from Rs. 2/- per square metre to Rs. 2.75 per square metre.

**Setting up of soft drink bottling plants
abroad**

4902. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to

state:

(a) whether India has set up soft drink bottling plants abroad;

(b) if so, the names of such countries; and

(c) the results thereof?

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

(b) The countries are USA, Singapore and Nigeria.

(c) As on 31.12.86, the Joint venture in USA has shown profit while joint venture in Singapore was in loss.

Regarding the performance of Indian joint venture in Nigeria, as per the information available upto 31.12.82, it has shown loss. For subsequent years, the Indian promoter of this joint venture reported that as a result of complete break-down on the part of foreign collaborator, they could not receive any further reports despite their all efforts. They have sought the intervention of Indian High Commission in Nigeria in this regard.

Rate of Inflation

4903. SHRI SOMNATH RATH:
SHRI K. HAMACHANDRA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present rate of inflation in terms of wholesale prices and what was the rate in 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) the wholesale price index during the week ended January 16, 1988; and

(c) the wholesale price index for the corresponding period last year i.e. on January 16, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The present rate of inflation in terms of WPI as on 5.3.1988, the latest available was 9.7 per cent. The inflation rate was 5.3 per cent in 1986-87 and 3.8 per cent in 1985-86.

(b) and (c). The Wholesale Price Index (Base 1970-71 = 100) stood at 415.7 during the week ended 16th January, 1988 as against 377.9 as on week ended 17th January, 1987.

Reappraisal of Textile Policy

4904. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub-committee of Secretaries of the Union Ministries held a meeting in January to evaluate the Textile Policy;

(b) if so, the major decisions taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. A meeting of Secretaries to Government held in August, 1987, reviewed the implementation of the textile policy.

(c) and (d). A resolution of the Indian National Textiles Workers' Federation was received in this Ministry on 26-10-87. Important suggestions made as per this Resolution were, inter-alia, urgent need to review textile policy of June, 1985, timely assistance by financial institutions to potentially

viable closed mills and proper Government control and monitoring over the management of such mills, taking over by the Government of those units in respect of which financial institutions are not prepared to grant rehabilitation package, formulation of the scheme to create workers' cooperative sector to run the closed units, payment of unemployment allowance to the displaced workers, immediate nationalisation of all taken-over mills presently managed by NTC, need to avoid abnormal fluctuations in cotton prices, scheme for workers' participation in management at all levels.

U.S. Aid for Housing

4905. SHRI SOMNATH RATH:
SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE:
CHAUDHARY RAM PARIKASH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States had offered dollar 35 million as housing aid to India recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) has been authorised to borrow an amount of \$ 35 million from the US Capital Market under the US Housing Guarantee Programme. This amount is in addition to \$ 90 million borrowed by HDFC under this programme in the past. An agreement in this regard has been entered into by HDFC with the US Agency for International Development. As in the past the amount of \$ 35 million will be utilised by HDFC for its low income shelter activities.