

of villages to such branches under this scheme. It is, however, not possible at this stage to indicate the likely dates by which remaining branches will be opened, as opening of branches depends upon a number of factors on which banks have no control such as availability of necessary infrastructural facilities including suitable premises for the branch.

Fall In Export of Finished Leather

1548. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, the objective of promoting export of value added export has resulted in steep fall of export of finished leather from easter region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the present policy of export of finished leather *vis-a-vis* value added leather goods for export from easter region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). In view of above, do not arise.

Failure of National Handloom Development Corporation to Supply Yarn

1549. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) which was created to make available yarn as well as dyes and chemicals at reasonable prices to the handloom sector has failed to perform its role and the yarn shortage has crippled handloom units;

(b) if so, the problems which have made it difficult for this Corporation to perform its role, and

(c) the steps being taken by this Ministry to sort out matters ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. The National Handloom Development Corporation has been supplying yarn, dyes and chemicals to handloom agencies in different States in steadily increasing quantities as per the details given in the statement below.

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

Statement

(Value : Rs. in lakhs)

(Quantity : Lakh Kgs.)

| Year | Yarn | | Dyes and Chemicals | |
|---------|----------|---------|--------------------|--------|
| | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value |
| 1984-85 | 2.49 | 92.44 | — | — |
| 1985-86 | 20.87 | 629.75 | 0.48 | 58.2 |
| 1986-87 | 28.08 | 823.00 | 1.03 | 132.90 |
| 1987-88 | 63.05 | 2604.62 | 2.95 | 288.21 |

Smuggling of Electronic Goods

1550. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of electronic goods such as VCR, VCP, electronic

watches cameras etc. are being smuggled into the country;

(b) if so, the details of such goods confiscated by the Customs at the International Airports during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88;