

[English]

### Implementation of Nutrition Programme

15. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nutrition programme is not being implemented properly; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) and (b). A number of Nutrition programmes are currently under operation in the country. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) providing a package of services to the vulnerable group of children and women of reproductive age group is the major nutrition programme. On going efforts to achieve better co-operation between Health and Human Resource Development/Social Welfare Sectors are being made. Constant efforts are also being made to improve the training of the ICDS and health functionaries and develop an effective monitoring system.

### Crisis in Handloom Sector

16. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuing crisis faced by the handloom sector resulting in closure of handloom units all over the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring down the price and ensure regular supply of cotton yarn to the handloom sector;

(c) the steps taken to rationalise the distribution of handloom yarn to the weavers;

(d) the amount of financial assistance extended to the handloom sector in the form of additional share capital or interest free loans during 1987-88; and

(e) the latest revised price for janata cloth supplied by the handloom sector and the date of revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) On account of rise in prices of cotton yarn due to high cotton prices and poor off-take of cloth due to erosion of purchasing power in rural and urban areas, mostly on account of drought conditions and floods, there has been reduction in levels of handloom weaving activity in some areas.

(b) and (c). Government have taken the following corrective measures to check the rise in prices of cotton yarn:-

- i) Export of staple cotton has been suspended.
- ii) Import of cotton has been permitted against export of cotton yarn/cotton fabrics and made-ups on advance licence basis.
- iii) Export of hank yarn upto 60s counts has been stopped.
- iv) Import of 1 lakh bale of cotton, duty free, for production of hank yarn for supply to the handloom sector has been permitted. The price advantage accruing out of the import of duty-free cotton will be passed on to handloom sector.

In order to provide relief to the handloom industry, the Central Government has been implementing various schemes such as the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme, Loan Assistance to National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up of new Weavers' Cooperative Spinning Mills and expansion of existing units, yarn supply operations of National Handloom Develop-