

synthetic textile goods worth about Rs. 5000 crores per year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or contemplated to check this smuggling; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). No Sir. However, synthetic textiles continue to be sensitive to smuggling into the country. Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantum of synthetic textile goods that are being smuggled into the country. The quantum of synthetic fabrics seized during the last few years, as shown, in the table below indicate a downward trend:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value in respect of synthetic fabrics seized (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1984	1839
1985	1648
1986	1461
1987	875
1988 (upto 30th October)	896*

* Figure is provisional.

The anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling into the country.

The Government has also now permit-

ted setting up new factories and the expansion of existing capacities for the manufacture of polyester fibre and polyester yarn to enable the manufacturers to achieve economies of scale. This would reduce the cost of the indigenous synthetic textiles and thereby reduce the incentive to their smuggling.

As a further measure to reduce the incentive to smuggling of synthetic textiles, fiscal levies on man-made fibre and yarn have been reduced with effect from 1st March, 1988.

National Housing Bank

1153. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up the National Housing Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the National Housing Bank will be of use to the housing schemes launched in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A National Housing Bank with its Head Office at Delhi has been established with effect from 9th July, 1988.

(c) National Housing Bank Act enables National Housing Bank to extend refinance facilities and other financial assistance to Housing Finance Institutions (HFIs) and scheduled banks in respect of their lending for housing. National Housing Bank can subscribe to shares, bonds and debentures of HFIs and can also guarantee financial obligations of HFIs. National Housing Bank will also formulate schemes for mobilisation of resources and extension of credit for housing including that for economically weaker sections.