

(a) whether Union Government have decided to implement an External Marketing Assistance Scheme for promoting export of non-traditional jute goods; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) External Market Assistance (EMA) scheme for organised jute mills and for decentralised handloom/handicraft sector has been introduced recently with Jute Manufactures Development Council as the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme. The Scheme is applicable to same products which are covered by Internal Market Assistance Scheme and is on the same lines as IMA. EMA would be given at uniform rate of 10 percent of F.O.B. realisation. The scheme is valid upto 31.3.92.

[*Translation*]

Purchase of Medicines for CGHS

1738. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medicines which are being purchased by CGHS from the local manufacturers instead of big and standard companies;

(b) the reasons for such purchases; and

(c) whether the quality of these medicines is tested at the time of purchase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c). All allopathic medicines included in the formulary are procured from Medical Store Organisation who are supplying 100%

pre-tested allopathic medicines. I.S.M. & Homoeopathic Medicines included in the formulary are procured from I.M.P.C.L. (Government of India Undertaking) and the firms registered under CGHS. Organolyptic test method is adopted for checking the quality of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines whereas Homoeopathic medicines are got tested from Homoeopathic Pharmacopoea Laboratory, Ghaziabad before acceptance of the supplies.

[*English*]

Purchase of Cotton by CCI

1739. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have directed the Cotton Corporation of India to purchase sufficient quantity of cotton with a view to ensure its availability to the textile industry through out the season;

(b) if so, the details of the purchases made by the Corporation during the year 1987 and 1988; and

(c) the extent to which this had helped in arresting the decline in Cotton price in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The Cotton Corporation of India has been directed to purchase cotton from the growers under price support operations whenever the market prices reach minimum support levels. The Corporation has also been directed to undertake commercial operations at its sole risk for supply of institutional buyers at the ruling market prices.

(b) and (c). Under commercial operations, during the cotton year 1987-88, the Corporation purchased 6.50 lakh bales. During the current cotton year 1988-89

(Sept. 1988 to 2.3.1989), the Corporation has so far purchased 3.96 lakh bales. Prices have ruled well above minimum support levels during the cotton year 1987-88 as well as during the current cotton season and there has been no occasion for the Corporation to undertake price support operations.

Dereservation of posts for SC/ST in FCI and HVOC

1740. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Class I, II and III employees working in the Food Corporation of India and the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited, separately, as on 31 December, 1988 and the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees among them;

(b) the number of posts for SC/ST in direct recruitment and promotion quotas dereserved in the said corporations during the last three years, year wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check dereservation of posts for SC/ST in the above corporations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Cotton Yarn

1741. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any limit fixed for the export of cotton yarn, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantity and value of cotton yarn exported during 1987-88; and

(c) the estimated export during 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The exports of cotton yarn in count group 1-60s are allowed within an annual ceiling of 40 million kgs. during 1989. However, the exports of hank yarn in this count group are not allowed. There is no restriction on export of cotton yarn of counts above 61s.

(b) and (c). According to the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, the exports of cotton yarn during 1987-88 amounted to 85.41 million kgs. valued at Rs. 341.3 crores. As per the Council's estimate, cotton yarn exports during 1988-89 would be around 40 million kgs.

Decline in Infant Mortality rate during Seventh Plan

1742. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infant mortality rate has registered a decline during the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the rate as on 1 April, 1985 and 1 January, 1989 and the various steps taken to bring down the rate alongwith comparative figures at the beginning and end of each of the plans; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard to register a sharp decline in this rate alongwith the figures for this rate in other developing Asian countries?