

composite mills and are placed at a disadvantageous position with regard to excise duty and other relevant financial conditions; and

(c) whether the problems and difficulties faced by the powerlooms have been examined, and if so, the steps taken to project their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The textile sector as a whole including the handloom and powerloom sectors in Maharashtra has faced the problem of a rise in the price of cotton yarn. However, the new Textile Policy has not adversely affected the powerloom and handloom sectors as the share of these sectors in total cloth manufacturing has been steadily increasing after the implementation of the policy.

(b) The Textile Policy of June, 1985, has equated powerlooms in the decentralised sector and powerlooms in the organised mill sector to allow them to compete on the basis of their respective strengths and weaknesses. Accordingly, the fiscal structure has been made neutral between these two sectors.

(c) The share of the powerlooms sector in total cloth production has been steadily increasing over the past years. However, Government is fully seized of the specific problems facing this sector and appropriate steps are taken as and when required.

Curbs Imposed by USA on Textiles and Shoe Imports

39. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that the United States propose to enact legislation to impose new curbs on

import of textiles, clothing and shoe;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The Government is not aware of any specific proposal of the U.S. Government to enact legislation to impose new curbs on import of textiles, clothing and shoe.

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

Alleged Mis-management in Bihar State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society

40. SHRI SALAHUDDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received complaints regarding mis-management in the working of Bihar State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society and Regional Handloom Weavers Cooperative Union Limited, Bihar;

(b) the reaction of Union Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute a committee to probe into their affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c). During the years 1986 and 1987, several complaints were received by the Central Government alleging irregularities in the production of Janata Cloth by the implementing agencies in Bihar. The complaints related to fake purchases of yarn and submission of false subsidy claims. As the responsibility for the implementation of

Janata Cloth Scheme vests with the State Government, the complaints received were referred to the Government of Bihar for making necessary enquiries in the matter. Representatives of the Central Government were also sent to discuss the matter with the State Government authorities. Subsequently in respect of some of the implementing agencies the State Government have reported that no irregularities were found. In respect of certain other agencies, Vigilance enquiry by the State Government has been undertaken. The Central Government have streamlined the procedures for submission of claims for Janata subsidy by the Government of Bihar. In respect of certain implementing agencies against whom enquiry is being conducted, subsidy claims have been with-held. In view of the action already initiated by the Government of Bihar, the Union Government does not propose to constitute a Committee to probe into the affair.

Resignation by Members of National Wasteland Development Board

41. SHRI H.M. PATEL: Will the Minister

of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some members of the National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB) have resigned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the tempo of afforestation work has not been kept up and the targets have not been achieved; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken for the development of wasteland?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Since the setting up of the National Wastelands Development Board in May, 1985, only one member has resigned from the membership of the Board on grounds of ill-health.

(c) and (d). The progress of afforestation during the past three years has been as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Target</i> <i>(in million hectares)</i>	<i>Achievement</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1985-86	1.45	1.51
1986-87	1.71	1.76
1987-88	1.79	1.77
1988-89	2.00	1.90 (Upto Dec. 88)

The target for 1988-89 is likely to be exceeded.

Proposal for opening Sugar Mills in Assam

42. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in the co-operative sector in Assam;