

**Provision of employment in all India Handicraft Board**

4702. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employment provided in All India Handicrafts Board during the last three years; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to provide employment opportunities to rural artisans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN):  
(a) 1532.

(b) The Board has undertaken programmes for training of artisans in various craft such as Carpets, Art metalwares, hand-printed textiles and cane & bamboo crafts to increase their production base. These training programmes are likely to result in providing employment opportunities to rural artisans.

**Recovery of loss in Eastern Units of National Textile Corporation**

4703. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of the steps Government propose to take to recover the loss of Rs. 52 crore in the Eastern Units of National Textile Corporation; and

(b) the important observations made by Auditors about the loss?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Some of the important steps taken to improve the working of these mills are as follows:—

(i) modernisation, expansion, etc. of the mills;

(ii) rationalisation of workload and labour force;

(iii) bulk procurement of raw materials on centralised basis;

(iv) diversification in the pattern of production; and

(v) installation of diesel generating sets in some of the units to overcome power shortages.

(b) The Auditors have not made any observations about the loss in their latest report dated 23rd June, 1980, in respect of the accounts of NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd. for the year 1978-79.

**Decision to permit Sale of Narcotics in Bihar**

4704. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bihar Government's recent decision to permit again the sale of narcotic drugs in the State has not found favour with the Centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Loom Industry in Andhra Pradesh**

4705. SHRI R. K. MEHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of traditional looms and out of them how many are in the co-operative sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the restrictions fixed by Reserve Bank of India, the Co-operative sector gets only 30 per cent of their required working capital from the four co-operative banks in the region;