

exceptionally adverse financial situation arising mainly from a substantial loss of production because of serious infrastructural problems as well as steep escalations in costs which could be only partially compensated from the Steel Development Fund. Both SAIL and the Government have been making concerted efforts to bring about an improvement in the situation through a variety of measures. As a result of these efforts, the pace of production of saleable steel has improved since October, 1980 and a reasonable production target has also been adopted for 1981-82 which should result in an improved generation of resources in that year. Government have also recently allowed price increases on iron and steel and a part of the proceeds of these price increases will be available for meeting the cost increases to which the steel plants have been subjected. Certain categories such as bars, rods and semis have also been released from J.P.C. control, and this too should result in increased realisations by the steel plants. As the combined result of all these steps, it is hoped that subject to adequate availability of essential inputs, e.g., coal and power, SAIL's financial position will improve significantly in 1981-82 and Government have every confidence that SAIL will liquidate the arrears of loan repayments and interest in due course.

**Licensed Powerloom Factories
in Tamil Nadu and in the
Country**

2538. SHRI N. SOUNDARAJAN:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE
be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licensed powerloom factories in India and in Tamil Nadu separately ;

(b) the annual production of these factories in India and in Tamil Nadu separately ;

(c) the estimated number of unauthorised powerlooms in India and in Tamil Nadu separately ; and

(d) the number of unauthorised factories brought to book and the penalties imposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d). The total number of powerlooms with valid permits as on 31-1-1981 is 4.54 lakhs. This includes 83,272 powerlooms in Tamil Nadu. The estimated production of powerlooms cloth during 1979-80, was 3450 million metres which included an estimated production of 408 million metres in Tamil Nadu. No assessment has been made as yet with regard to unauthorised Powerlooms in the country. However, unauthorised Powerlooms which were in existence as on 31-12-78 and in respect of which applications have been sent to the Office of the Textile Commissioner before 31-12-79, are being considered for regularisation. After the process of regularisation is over, Excise Authorities are expected to impose penalties on the unauthorised powerlooms;

**Concession to entrepreneurs
Belonging to scheduled castes/
Scheduled Tribes**

2539. SHRI A. C. DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to give certain concession to the entrepreneurs belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ;

(b) if so, the name of States where such facilities have been given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs ; and

(c) whether such facilities have been given to the entrepreneurs of Orissa ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) :

(a) Concessions/facilities provided