

Ban on Import of Chinese 'B' Grade Silk

2964. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to ban the import of Chinese 'B' grade silk which is essentially required for manufacture of Chanderi sarees;

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated to ensure regular supply of the requisite silk for the Chanderi saree-industry; and

(c) what is the estimated annual requirement of silk of the Chanderi industry and what quantity of graded silk per annum is proposed to be earmarked for this industry from indigenous sources?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Under the existing policy, there is no provision for import of raw silk for Actual Users. Import of silk is, however, permitted under the replenishment policy against specific export performance. The current years policy also provides for import of raw silk of International grade 'A' & 'B' under the advance licensing scheme with a view to boosting export of natural silk goods.

(b) In view of ban on import of raw silk for Actual Users, the question does not arise.

(c) It has been estimated that the annual requirement of raw silk for Chanderi Saree-Industry works out to 11,000 Kgs comprising 6000 Kgs for warp and 5,000 Kgs for weft and border. There is no control on procurement and supply of raw silk in the country and hence the question of earmarking any quantity to this industry does not arise.

Amount provided by State Bank of India for constructing Houses for Landless Labourers in Gujarat

2965. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the State Bank of India for constructing houses for the landless labourers in Gujarat; and

(b) how much money is proposed to be made available for the purpose in the current year?

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

(a) and (b). The State Bank of India has informed that it has so far sanctioned individual loans of Rs. 1,000 each to allottee landless labourers amounting to Rs. 41.16 lakhs. Indirectly also it has sanctioned housing loans to landless labourers through Gujarat Rural Housing Board to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs. In addition, it has made a further commitment of Rs. 100 lakhs towards such loans.

Budget Allocations for Tourism Sector

2966. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the Budget allocations for the tourism sector last year and the extent to which it has expanded; and

(b) whether Government proposed to give high priority to this fastest growing business of the world and increase the allotment?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Originally a budget allocation of Rs. 922.00 lakhs was made during 1980-81 for implementation of various Plan schemes in the Central Sector. Of