

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; to some extent.

(c) The "Walk through System" was introduced at all international Airports in India in February 1981 so that the passengers and tourists who had no dutiable articles could just walk through in the green channel. The examination of baggage of this category of passengers was confined to a very small percentage. Recently, instructions have been issued that examination of baggage of passengers availing the red channel should not be done as a matter of routine and instead assessment of duty should be completed on oral declaration subject to small test check. Emphasis has been laid on acceptance of passenger's declaration. Even in the case of unaccompanied baggage and for persons coming on Transfer of Residence, percentage check has been introduced. Reports received by the Government indicate that the system is working well and has greatly facilitated the clearance of passengers speedily.

Opening Of New Branches By State Banks Of Patiala In Haryana

7518. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications pending for opening of new branches and extension counters by State Bank of Patiala ;

(b) the reasons for delay in granting sanction ; and

(c) when the Reserve Bank of India proposes to issue clearance for each one ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India have reported that the State Bank of Patiala has been allotted 7 rural centres for opening branches in Haryana under the current

branch licensing period. In addition, the bank has one more authorisation for a semi-urban centre.

Reserve Bank have reported that four applications viz., 2 for branches, one for Agriculture Development Branch and one for extension counter of the State Bank of Patiala are pending with them. These will be decided after completion of the reviews of inter-bank distribution of branch expansion programme and their policy towards opening of specialised branches.

Addition To Capacity In Powerloom Sector

7519. Dr. A. U. AZMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it was envisaged in the Sixth Five Year Plan that an addition to capacity is to be permitted in the powerloom sector and ways of measures by way of disincentives were to be devised to prevent powerloom from competing with the handlooms,

(b) if so, that are the details of the progress made in this regard. and

(c) how many people have been benefited therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) : In pursuance of the Textile Policy Statement of 9th March, 1981 which provides for a limited expansion of the Powerloom sector for weaver belonging to handloom cooperatives to graduate to powerloom, a total quota of 25,000 powerlooms has been allotted to different States and Union Territories. States and Union Territories are expected to implement this quota by the end of the 6th Five Year Plan period. The reservation of some items of production for the handloom sector has been continued and a group has been set-up under the Chairmanship of the Development Commissioner (Handloom) to