

and action is being taken by the Custom Houses for their disposal in accordance with the provisions under the Customs Act, 1962.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Loans sanctioned to farmers by rural banks

9310. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the quantum of loan sanctioned to the farmers by each rural bank from the day of its inception till today ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

Available data regarding the quantum of advances to farmers for Agricultural purposes, outstanding as on 30th June, 1982, in respect of each Regional Rural Bank in position as on that day, are set out in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-6532/83]

Setting up of Cashew Board

9311. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Cashew Board on the lines of the Rubber Board ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Action taken against smugglers involved in shooting accident

9312. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of the smuggling gang which shot and wounded the officials of the D.R.I. in Bombay outside the Maratha Mandir Cinema Hall have been arrested ;

(b) the details of action taken to contain the smuggling activities in the country together with details of the smugglers nabbed during the course of the last one year ; and

(c) have the officials wounded during encounters with the smugglers or during attempts made to exchange the smuggled items has been rewarded suitably to boost their morale ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) In the follow-up action after the shooting incident on 16.12.1982, in which one officer of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Bombay, was wounded, 13, persons has been arrested so far.

(b) Towards implementing Point No. 19 of the 20-Point Programme which calls for continued strict action against smugglers, hoarders and tax evaders, Government have formulated a Plan of Action, in terms of which the anti-smuggling drive has been stepped up. The measures taken under the Plan of Action, include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department, intensified application of the provisions of the COFEPOSA Act, 1974, greater co-ordination with the other concerned authorities of the Central and State Governments and increased bi-lateral co-operation with neighbouring countries to prevent smuggling. The matter is also kept under constant review.

The number of persons arrested for involvement insmuggling was 2266 in 1982 and 376 in 1983 (upto February).

(c) A proposal to grant a suitable ex-gratia amount to the officer of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence who was wounded in the aforesaid incident is under Government's consideration.

Demand by Orissa Government for special non-plan assistance

9313. SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the demand for special non-plan assistance by Orissa Government for development work ;

(b) the amount sanctioned so far ; and
(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The State

Government requested the Centre to provide non-Plan assistance to the extent of 75% of non-Plan spill-over expenditure of a developmental nature of Rs. 2142.51 lakhs in 1983-84 for floods that occurred in August, 1982.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration.

Handloom Industry

9314. SHRI RA NATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) was it envisaged in the Sixth Plan to augment the supply of hand-yarn to weavers through setting up of additional spinning capacity, setting up of a National Handloom Development Corporation, to bring 60 per cent of handlooms under effective cooperative coverage, increasing productivity through modernisation and renovation of looms, strengthening the technical extension systems for improving the quality and design of handloom products and reactivation of looms in the North-East; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the achievements made in the production of handloom industry, generation of more employment opportunities and increase in exports amongst other areas mentioned above so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The achievements made in the fields of production, employment generation, exports, etc., during the first 3 years of the Sixth Plan period are as indicated below:—

Year	Production (in million metres)	Employment (in lakhs)	Exports (Rs. in crores)
1979-80	2900	61.51	290.41
1980-81	3100	66.13	330.02
1981-82	3113	66.41	322.42

The National Handloom Development Corporation has been registered and is expected to start functioning shortly. The cooperative coverage has increased to 53% as against the Sixth Plan target of 60%.

Financial outlay has been committed to setting up of 13 new handloom weavers cooperative spinning mills and expansions of 6 existing spinning mills in this sector. These mills will be completed by mid 1985. For improving the quality of handloom fabrics, modern pre-loom and post-loom processing houses have been set up with central assistance in a number of States. Reactivation of the looms in the North East are covered under the regular schemes and the State Governments concerned have been advised to take more active interest. A third Institute of Handloom Technology, to cater exclusively to the North Eastern Sector, has been set up at Gauhati.

Recruitment and promotion policy in army, navy and air force

9315. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across any comments regarding the recruitment and promotion policy of Government in Army, Navy and Air Force being tough gradually;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined to sort out the problem and to introduce a sound and rational balance between senior and junior personnel of different wings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) No specific comments have come to the notice of the Government regarding recruitment and promotion in the three Services being made tough gradually. However, the recruitment and promotion policies have to undergo changes from time to time to meet the requirements of sophisticated hardware and the introduction of scientific methods of warfare.

News-item captioned "India' China agree on expending trade exchanges"

9316. SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a news-item appearing in the "Statesman"