

aid of machines but without the aid of power/steam are completely frustrating the said Notification by finding loopholes in the Notification;

(c) whether these processor have evaded Excise Duty to the extent of Rs. 24 crores, thus creating unequal competition for the handloom industry to survive;

(d) whether these large units mostly in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan have evaded excise duty due to slackness on the part of the implementing machinery in the Central Excise Collectorates; and

(e) steps contemplated by Government to plug the loopholes and whether they would increase the Excise Duty in order to enable handloom industries to survive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B.P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) Notification No.130/82-CE dated the 20th April, 1982 as amended, fully exempts cotton fabrics processed without the aid of power or steam, subject to certain conditions. This notification is however not applicable to cotton fabrics subjected to the process of bleaching or printing with the aid of machines, except when the clearances do not exceed the quantities specified in the notification. As the notification grants total exemption from central excise duty, the question of collecting duties under the notification does not arise.

(b) to (e) Government have received several representations stating that some processors of cotton fabrics have re-arranged their operations in the context of Notification No. 130/82-CE dt. 20.4.1982 and are consequently able to avail of the benefit of the said exemption notification. In the circumstances, the question of evasion of duty does not arise in this case.

Lock-Outs in Jute Mills

1006. SHRI NIREN GHOSH :
SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that jute mills are indulging in a profit-earning spree from raw material stocks to the point of going out of production before the arrival of the new crop in sufficient quantities and thereby resorting to prolonged lock-out rendering about 50,000 workers jobless;

(b) if so, details of the steps being taken by Government against these mills; and

(c) if no step are proposed to be taken, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c) There have been sporadic reports of sales of raw jute by a few mills in West Bengal in recent months and in almost all cases such sales have been made to correct gradewise imbalance in stock of raw jute. There has been no report of any jute mill having gone out of production as a result of sales of raw jute stocks. Though we do not have full details of such transactions it is understood that quantity involved in such sales is not very large. Even in normal situation mills resort to this practice. There is no legal bar to Mills, selling their surplus stocks of some grades and purchasing certain other grades they require for correction of any grade imbalance of stocks of raw jute depending on their product-mix pattern requirements provided their total stockholding are within the prescribed limits. Therefore, the question of taking any action against such mills does not arise.

Declining Trend in Garments Exports

1007. SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHAUDHARI
SHRI NAVIN RAVANI :
SHRI AHMED MOHAMMED PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that garment exports are stagnating and showing a declining trend;

(b) if so, the details of garment exports during the past three years; and

(c) what are the export incentive schemes and benefits to be made available to the garment industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) The past few years have witnessed a steady growth in the export of readymade garments from India. From a modest level of Rs. 12.5 crores during 1970-71, the export of readymade garments grew steadily and reached a level of Rs. 669.80 crores (provisional) during 1981-82. Only during 1982-83 there was a small decline in exports as compared to the previous year.

(b) The provisional value of exports of readymade garments from India during the last three years is give below:

| Year | Value (in Rs. Crores) |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1980-81 | 481.36 |
| 1981-82 | 669.80 |
| 1982-83 | 629.25 |

Source : AEPC, New Delhi.

(c) A number of incentives are already available to the industry for export of garments. These include grant of draw back and replenishment benefits; cash compensatory support duty free import of certain fabrics, import of garment manufacturing machinery under OGL, etc. Government have taken some further steps in order to give a boost to the export of garments. Floor prices have been rationalised in respect of certain categories; procedure for inter-segmental transfer has been streamlined; replenishment percentage has been increased; inspection system has been simplified. The Apparels Export Promotion Council is also undertaking a number of promotional measures to encourage the export of readymade garments.

Capacity Utilisation of Mints

1008. SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the average capacity utilisatipn of mints for the last eleven months, mint-wise details thereof ;

(b) whether the coins are being cornered by anti socials for metallic use; and

(c) how Government propose to combat such situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) It appears that the rated capacity of the Mints was not fixed at the time the Mints were set up. However, when the incentive scheme was introduced in the three Mints recently, a base level of production of coins was determined for each Mint on the basis of the highest production achieved during the years 1974-77 and on that basis the average capacity utilisation for the last 11 months in the three Mints is as indicated below :-

(i) Bombay Mint- 100 per cent.

(ii) Hyderabad Mint, 90.77 per cent for three months from April'83 to June 1983 (during the period when the incentive scheme has been in operation) and 56.65 per cent during the 8 months upto March 1983.

(iii) Calcutta Mint- 47.1 per cent. In the Calcutta Mint, the incentive scheme has been introduced only on 4.7.1983 and production is already reported to have increased by more than 50 per cent.

(b) The value of metal in coins is much less than the face value of the coins and, therefore, there is no reason for the anti-social elements to corner the coins for metallic use.

(c) Does not arise.