

Export of HPS Groundnut

6953. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA DASAN NADAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether HPS groundnut export targets are not likely to be achieved ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof (Economic Times dated 6 February, 1984) ?

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

(b) The export target has not been achieved mainly due to spoilage of the quality of HPS groundnut by rains in growing areas giving low recovery of exportable kernels.

Handloom Plan Bogged Down due to Built-in Deficiencies

6954. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's Handloom Plan has been bogged down due to built-in deficiencies (Business Standard dated 6 February, 1984) ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite reservation for handloom sector, Government agencies have to compete with private sector on unequal terms ; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite inviting tenders exclusively for handloom sector in effect the goods actually purchased by Government agencies are actually made by powerloom sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) It is not a fact that Government's Handloom Plan has bogged down due to built-in deficiencies. However a question of limited tender system for purchase of handloom fabrics in respect of Central Government purchases is under consideration.

(b) The reservation for handlooms is applicable to all the handloom agencies including cooperatives, corporations and private sector. Hence there is no question of Government agencies competing with private sector on unequal terms.

(c) So far as Central Government purchases are concerned there are no exclusive tenders for handloom sector and hence the question of actual purchases by Government. Agencies from powerloom sector against exclusive tenders for handloom sector does not arise.

Setting up of Italian Bank Branches in Country

6955. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a leading Italian bank proposes to set up its branches in the country ;

(b) if so, the name of that Italian bank ;

(c) the numbers of branches proposed to be set up by that bank ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No application from any Italian bank for opening a branch in India is as at