

Availability of Controlled Cloth

3307. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have given any guidelines to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in regard to the distribution of controlled cloth, and if so, the details thereof ;

(b) if not, the time by which guidelines will be issued ;

(c) whether it is a fact that controlled cloth does not reach many areas specially the rural backward, remote and difficult areas even today ; and

(d) if so, the concrete and effective steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) :

(a) and (b). The Government have formulated broad guidelines as a policy for distribution of controlled cloth. State Governments/Union Territories Governments have been requested to restrict the sale of controlled cloth to small farmers and non-income tax payees on the basis of ration cards and that not more than one pair of dhoty or saree or 10 metres of any other controlled cloth is sold to a person at a time. In regard to the Polyester Cotton Blended shirting the State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to confine its sale to people in small municipalities and in rural areas whose annual income is below Rs. 6000/- per annum. However the guidelines issued, except in regard to polyester cotton blended shirting, have been temporarily kept in abeyance in view of the accumulation of the controlled cloth stock.

(c) Controlled cloth is mainly distributed through fair price shops and Consumer Cooperative Societies, the majority of which are located in the rural areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Standing Committee to Boost Agriculture Exports

3308. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had convened a tripartite meeting to boost agricultural exports where it was decided to set up a Standing Committee to ensure coordination with the Agriculture Ministry ;

(b) if so, whether State level export commissioners for agricultural products would be appointed in addition to the existing export corporations ; and

(c) if so, to what extent the setting up of his panel will be beneficial to the export of agricultural products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Standing Committee comprising of officials of the Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce is proposed to be set up.

(b) In this meeting, a suggestion was made to designate State level Agricultural Production Commissioners as Agricultural Production and Export Development Commissioners.

(c) Setting up of the Standing Committee would help in sorting out the policy problems and ensure better coordination on matters relating to agricultural exports.

Proposals for Revival of Sick Units through Workers Co-operatives

3309. SHRI ERA ANBARASU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals regarding the revival of sick units through workers co-operatives which have been sent to the Department of Textiles for their consideration ; and

(b) when they were sent to them and