

**Muslin Sari;**

9032. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item in 'Hindustan Times' of 14 March, 1984 stating that a chosen band of weavers of Nabadwip are at the job-weaving 'Muslin' sari which is so finely spun as can be slipped through the wedding ring of a bride; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA)** : (a) and (b) The Material is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Import and Export of Minerals**

9033. **SHRI NAVIN RAVANI** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of the minerals exported during the years 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 and the names of important minerals exported;

(b) the total value of the minerals imported during the years 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, (other than oil) and the main minerals which are being imported; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce the import of minerals and increase the export of minerals during the next five years ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA)** : (a) The total value of crude minerals and metalliferous ores exported during the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 was of the order of Rs. 421 crores and Rs. 717 crores respectively. The important items of export of minerals were iron ore, petroleum crude and refined, mica and manganese ore. Data beyond 1981-82 are not available at present.

(b) Import of crude minerals and metalliferous ores excluding Minerals Oils during 1980-81 and 1981-82 was of the order of Rs. 258 crores and Rs. 309 crores respectively. Important items of import in this group were Sulphur (excluding sublined etc.), Fertilizers crude (mineral phosphate-unground and ground), Asbestos, coking coal, copper and nickel. Data for the years 1982-83 and 1983-84 are not available at present.

(c) Regarding reducing the imports of minerals the following important steps are being taken :

(i) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is constantly engaged in geo-scientific investigations in various parts of the country for the discovery and evaluation of mineral resources, particularly those which are essential to the core industries and for our national development programmes;

(ii) In conformity with the latest development in the international field of earth sciences, GSI has been gradually replacing and strengthening its conventional systems by absorption of modern technology. GSI acquired a research vessel "Samundra Manthan" recently to undertake systematic mapping of the Exclusive Economic Zone, in the off-shore areas. It would be receiving two coastal reasearch launches in 1984 to map and explore the Littoral Zones. GSI would also be utilising data of the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite of the Department of Space. Plans are underway to acquire its own air-craft for aero-magnetic surveys to revise geological mapping.

Regarding steps for increasing exports the following major steps have been taken for promotion of exports of minerals and ores from the country :

(i) With a view to improving export performance on a long term basis the infrastructure facilities at the ports have been improved;