

(b) and (c) The Government, at present do not propose to replace capital subsidy under Integrated Rural Development Programme by interest subsidy.

Setting up of International Bureau of Textiles and Clothing

3821. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an international bureau of textiles and clothing with India as member, has been set up ;

(b) if so, the objectives of the bureau and particulars of the other members of the bureau ; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the developing countries specially India which is facing severe trade restrictions on the textile exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) to (c) An International Bureau of Textiles and Clothing is in the process of being set up. The objectives of the Bureau are :

(i) to achieve the elimination of discrimination and protectionism directed against Members exports and textiles and clothing in world markets and the full application of the rules and principles as enunciated in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to the world trade in textile and clothing products ;

(ii) to assist Members, in the interim, in ensuring that their rights under the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles (1974) as extended, are effectively enforced ; and

(iii) to assist Members to enable their effective participation in all relevant international forums dealing with the textiles and clothing sector.

The following countries have so far become members of the Bureau by signing/initialing the Articles of the Bureau ; China, Colombia, Hong Kong, India, Republic of Korea, Macav, Mexico and Pakistan.

The setting up of the Bureau institutionalises the Programme of Cooperation amongst Developing Countries, Exporters of Textiles and Clothing which has been in operation for the past nearly four years. The Bureau will serve as a focal point of consultations and coordination of all strategies and approaches to multilateral textile negotiations. Developing countries will be getting assistance from the Bureau in the form of technical and analytical support which is necessary for carrying out bilateral consultations and negotiations with importing countries. India's membership of the Bureau is in line with its policy of giving support to collective initiatives taken to promote the trade and economic interests of developing countries.

Follow-up Action Taken on Raids Conducted by Income Tax Department on Cloth Merchants in Ahmedabad

3822. SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various premises of certain cloth merchants of New Cloth Market, Ahmedabad (having handloom textiles manufacturing units), were raided by Income Tax Department sometime in June, 1981 ; if so, the names of parties ;

(b) whether highly incriminating documents, substantial unaccounted cash and jewellery, smuggled goods, etc. were seized during the raid resulting in sealing off of business premises, bank, lockers, etc. ; if so, the details thereof ;