

(b) Inadequate drought at Paradip Port resulting in considerable freight demerit and consequent unwillingness of the foreign buyers to nominate Vessels for this port has resulted in a disadvantage to this port vis-a-vis major iron ore loading ports in other countries as also in India. However, efforts are continuously being made to improve the facilities available at this port in coordination with the Ministries of Shipping & Transport and Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In order to increase export of iron ore through Paradip Port, renewed and concerted efforts have been made to persuade buyers to meet their requirement of iron ore to the extent possible from Paradip port and the following recent steps have been taken in this behalf;

For iron ore export through Paradip Port during the current year (1984-85), MMTC has concluded a contract for 5 lakh tons with Japan, South Korea has also agreed to take about 5 lakh tons through Paradip Port during 1984-85. MMTC has concluded a contract with GDR for shipment of 2 lakh tones of iron ore from Paradip Port during 1984-85. As a result of the efforts made by MMTC, exports of iron ore through Paradip Port during 1984-85 are expected at the level of 12 Lakh tons (as against 9.27 Lakh tons during 1983-84). In order to induce the buyers to take iron ore from Paradip Port, MMTC has agreed to compensate them for higher incidence of freight involved for lifting iron ore from Paradip port by giving discount in prices.

(c) The following steps have been taken to provide adequate port facilities at Paradip Port;

- (i) Iron ore loading operations at Paradip Port have been substantially improved with the installation of wagon tippler.
- (ii) The possibility and economic Viability of two port loading,

i.e. initial loading Paradip and uptooping at Madras Port, is being examined by MMTC.

- (iii) Night navigation has been introduced to handle vessels during night time.
- (iv) Government of Orissa in consultation with MMTC are examining the possibility of locating a transhipper-cum-dredger at Paradip Port to augment the loading capacity of the port and to find continuing solution to the problem of siltation.
- (v) Dredgers have recently been deployed at Paradip Port to increase the draft.

Trade Fair in Moscow

4680. SHRI K. OBUL REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is holding a Trade Fair in Moscow from the 15th August, 1984, as reported in the 'Patriot' of 14th July, 1984 ;

(b) if so, the number of Indian firms participated in the Fair, and names thereof ;

(c) the names of the countries participated in the Fair ;

(d) who inaugurated the Fair and duration of the Fair ;

(e) the details of the agreements reached between India and various other countries at the fair, value of the agreements and items to be exported/imported ; and

(f) the estimated increase in trade with socialist countries as a result of the Fair ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in library See No. LT—8708/84.

(c) As this is an exclusive Indian Exhibition, there is no participation by other countries.

(d) Shri K. Vijayabhaskara Reddy, Union Minister of Shipping & Transport inaugurated the exhibition. The exhibition is from 15th August to 14th September, 1984.

(e) and (f) Since the exhibition is still in its initial phase, it is too early to assess the result thereof.

Problems Faced by Handloom Weaving Societies in Kerala

*4681. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems being faced by the handloom weaving societies in Kerala due to the non-availability of yarn and other things at controlled rates ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure the regular supply of these essential items at controlled rates ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) There is no control on yarn prices. The prices, of yarn, particularly of lower counts, have gone up due to sharp increase in cotton prices.

(b) In order to ensure regular and systematic supplies of yarn to the handloom sector at reasonable prices, Government of India have taken a

number of measures, which inter-alia, are as follows :

- (i) Statutory obligation has been imposed on all spinning mills whereby they should pack at least 50 per cent of their marketable yarn in the form of hanks of which 85 per cent should be in counts 40s and below.
- (ii) State Governments have been requested to pool hank yarn produced by the co-operative spinning mills belonging to the National Textile Corporation, State Textile Corporation for captive use in the handloom sector.
- (iii) The National Textile Corporation has agreed to supply yarn to the organised sector of handloom, namely, Cooperatives and State Handloom Development Corporations at mill-gate prices and the State Governments have been asked to take advantage of this offer.
- (iv) The National Handloom Development Corporation, which has been set up recently, has, as one of its main Objectives, procurement and supply of yarn to the handloom weavers through the State Governments. It also proposes to set up yarn depots at various places in the country. Its first depot has started working at Gauhati.

श्रीरगाबाद भोपाल और खजुराहो होकर बम्बई से दिल्ली के लिये उड़ान प्रारम्भ करना

4682. श्री श्रीमती विद्यावती घतुर्वेदी क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय : यह बताने की कृपा करें कि :—