

cells valued lakhs of rupees from the Central Warehousing Corporation godown' at Gurgaon Road, in the third week of June, 1984 ;

(b) whether earlier also smuggled goods were seized from the Central Warehousing Corporation godown ;

(c) if so, the full details of the smuggled goods seized from the Central Warehousing Corporation godown ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there seems to be a direct or indirect involvement of Customs and Central Warehousing Corporation officials in the smuggling of contraband ; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto, the steps taken to check this menace and the action taken against the officials of Central Warehousing Corporation and Customs for their involvement in smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. K. KISHNA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) In all 24 cases of seizure of goods have been made since 1.1.1984 at Central Warehousing Corporation godown. The goods consist mainly of Video Cassette Recorders watches, T.Vs and other miscellaneous electronic items. The total value of goods seized is Rs. 41,09,156/—Out of this, the seizures during the third week of June are valued at Rs. 2,92,450/.—

(d) and (e) Evidence of involvement of customs officials has come to light in 3 of the cases of seizures. As a result, one Superintendent and two Inspectors posted at Central Warehousing Corporation's godown have been placed under suspension. Further investigations are in progress. However, investigations conducted so far have not revealed the involvement of Central Warehousing Corporation Officials in the smuggling of goods. The Customs authorities at Central Warehousing Corporation godowns are alert on this point and are maintaining special watch.

Decline in Export of Engineering Goods

966. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of engineering goods has declined during the year 1983-84 and also during the current year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target fixed for the year 1974-85 to increase export of engineering goods during the remaining period of the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Export of engineering goods during the year 1983-84 and also in April 1984 have declined in comparison to the corresponding preceding periods i. e. 1982-83 and April, 1983.

(b) Exports during 1983-84 are estimated to be Rs. 1170 crores as compared to Rs. 1250 crores during 1982-83. Exports during April 1984 are also reported to have declined marginally and are provisionally estimated to be Rs. 70 crores as against Rs. 75 crores during April 1983.

This decline is mainly attributable to :

(a) Poor intake of some of the products by USSR in 1983 ;

(b) Payment difficulties in Africa ;

(c) Continued recession in West Europe ;

(d) Introduction of counter-trade policies by some countries ;

(e) Port strike during the last month of the financial year 1983-84.

(c) With a view to achieving the export target during 1984-85, a promotional thrust will be given in the following areas :

- (i) An integrated export promotion plan to ASEAN and neighbouring countries has been drawn up ;
- (ii) Concentrated promotional activities will be undertaken in the major markets of West Europe, USA, Australia and Middle-East ;
- (iii) Exploring grater avenues for project exports by means of joint ventures and sub-contracting with renowned prime contractors of West Europe, Japan and USA.
- (iv) Exploring possibilities of grater participation by Indian firms in internationally financed projects.

Reopening of Sick Textile Mills in the Country

957. SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have extended its co-operation to the States for reopening the sick textile mills in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of sick textile mills in Gujarat ;

(c) if so, the details regarding the steps taken by the State Government ; and

(d) whether some financial assistance have also been sought from the Centre in this regard ?

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

(b) to (d) The cases of 24 sick/closed mills in Gujarat have been referred to a Group of Officers, which has been constituted by the Government to explore the possibility of rehabilitating those mills which are potentially viable. The Group includes

representatives of the State Government, financial institutions and banks. In case of 13 of these mills rehabilitation packages involving some concessions/reliefs from the Central and State Governments and financial assistance by the financial institutions and banks have been worked out.

Reimbursement of Cash Losses of Cotton Corporation of India

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

(a) whether his Ministry had decided to reimburse cash losses of the Cotton Corporation of India ;

(b) if so, whether the accumulated losses amounted to Rs. 75 crores ;

(c) the extent to which the reimbursement will result in reduction of net losses ;

(d) the other measures being considered to help CCI so that they may improve their position instead of losses ;

(e) whether it is a fact that CCI has been asked to co-ordinated with the National Textile Corporation for the supply of cotton; and

(f) the extent to which the position of the CCI has improved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) The Ministry has reimbursed cash losses amounting to Rs. 54.50 crores as loan to the Cotton Corporation of India repayable in annual instalments alongwith interest.

(b) Yes, Sir. The cash losses upto 31-8-1983, amounted to Rs. 75.31 crores.

(c) Since the reimbursement of cash losses is in the form of loan there will be only saving in the interest payments to the concerned banks. The annual savings on this account will be about Rs. 1.36 crores.