

The source material for this as well as local demand comes from various parts of the country.

(c) Meat prices have gone up during 1973 principally because of higher prices of animal feed and their maintenance.

Steps to protect Jobs of Employees of Book Houses

9115. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Labour Union had sent a memorandum to him urging that after the take-over of the publication of scientific books and journals, the jobs of the employees of the Book Houses should be protected;

(b) whether any assurance was given to the union in this connection;

(c) whether the employees of India Book House in Bombay are facing the threat of retrenchment; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to protect their jobs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The STC would arrange import of a small portion of imported books relating to costly scientific, technical and other books which are not ordinarily available through the book trade and the import of books by the STC would not, therefore, affect adversely the employment of workers in Book Houses in the country.

Suspension of Import of Woollen Rags by S.T.C.

9116. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allotted a further sum of Rs. 23 lakhs

to the State Trading Corporation for import of rags but the latter has suddenly suspended floating fresh tenders for the import of woollen rags and this decision has added to the hardships of the shoddy woollen industry which is already facing crisis due to the shortage of raw material;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision; and

(c) when will the import of rags be resumed by State Trading Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Before floating fresh tenders, S.T.C. wanted certain clarifications from Government. These have now been given, on the basis of which S.T.C. are continuing these purchases.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Enquiry against concerns under Birlas and their Family Members

9117. SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiries are pending against Birla concerns and members of Birla family in respect of taxes due from them and if so, since when; and

(b) how much more time is expected to be taken for completing the inquiries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). The Special Cell in the Directorate of Inspection (Investigation) which was set up in August 1972 has been asked to study the techniques of tax evasion/tax avoidance practised by certain large Industrial Houses. Birla Group is one such group.

On the basis of the studies conducted by the Special Cell, the Income-tax Officers concerned with the assessment of the cases belonging to the Birla Group conduct further enquiries as may be necessary and complete the assessments in accordance with the law. This is a continuous process and as such there is no time limit to complete the enquiries.

Allocation of Powerlooms for Backward States in the Country

9118. SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government in allotting powerlooms for backward and very backward States and Districts in the country; and

(b) the number of powerlooms allotted to different States upto the end of Fourth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b): There was no formal allotment of powerlooms to the States upto the Third Five Year Plan period. A statement showing the cotton and art-silk powerlooms allotted to the various States for the Fourth Five Year Plan period is attached. Allocation of looms to entrepreneurs was left to the State Governments. As regard woollen powerlooms, the following allotments were made during the 4th Plan period for backward districts in the following States lying in the cold belt:—

Sl. No.	State	No. of powerlooms allotted for backward districts
1.	Bihar	192
2.	Haryana	120
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	12
4.	Madhya Pradesh	96
5.	U. P.	416
		836

Statement

Statement showing the allocation of powerlooms—cotton and art-silk—to States for the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

Sl. No.	State	No. of Powerlooms, allocated
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12,400
2.	Kerala	3,900
3.	Mysore	4,300
4.	Tamil Nadu	12,500
5.	Pondicherry	600
6.	Gujarat	3,200
7.	Rajasthan	3,350
8.	West Bengal	6,000
9.	Bihar	7,005
10.	Assam	10,250
11.	Orissa	4,250
12.	Uttar Pradesh	10,325
13.	Maharashtra	7,300
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4,700
15.	Delhi	500
16.	Punjab	2,150
17.	Himachal Pradesh	600
18.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,800
19.	Tripura	800
20.	Manipur	1,500
21.	Goa, Daman & Diu	100
22.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	200
23.	Haryana	1,400
24.	Kandla Free Trade Zone	252
25.	Chandigarh	50
26.	Nagaland	1,000
27.	N. E. F. A.	50
28.	Andaman & Nicobar	100
29.	Laccadiv-Minicoi	50
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