

agers, etc. The implementation of the Lead Bank Scheme has also helped in the increasing of the involvement of the Public Sector Banks in the development processes in their Lead Districts, leading to larger credit disbursements to small borrowers in the priority sectors.

Memorandum by All India Weavers Federation

9940. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister on 18th April, 1974 by a deputation on behalf of the All India Weavers' Federation;

(b) if so, whether the memorandum has demanded immediate fixation of yarn prices at a reasonable level, adequate yarn supply through a public distribution system and adequate bank credit for the handloom and powerloom industries; and

(c) the action taken on contemplated by Government in this regard?

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

(c) A High-Powered Study Team under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, Member, Planning Commission, is going into the various problems of the handloom industry. Action to be taken in the matter will be considered after the report of the Study Team has been received.

Meanwhile, the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has been persuaded to peg prices of cotton yarn at the level prevailing on 28th March, 1974. They have agreed to make supplies directly from mills to nominees of State Governments sponsored through the

Textile Commissioner and also to open depots for supply of yarn directly in pockets of handloom concentration.

Allotment of more funds for Marine Products Export Development Authority

9941. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to allot more funds for Marine Product Export Development Authority,

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether Government are encouraging monopoly concerns in fishing exports.

(d) whether in Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu there is a competition for it; and

(e) if so, the particulars thereof and the names of the concerns who are in this business.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). After careful examinations of the budget proposals of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, the Government has approved a provision of Rs. 44.82 lakhs. The net amount to be met by the Government for Non-Plan projects for 1974-75 comes to Rs. 14.67 lakhs and a lump sum provision of Rs. 29.50 lakhs has been made for the Plan schemes during 1974-75, subject to detailed examination of the individuals schemes.

(c) No, Sir. Each case is considered strictly on merits and appropriate preconditions are prescribed in the event of approval.

(d) With the conditions/restrictions being imposed by the Government, it is not expected that there would be competition as such.

(e) Some of the big business houses who are in the field of fishing exports are as follows:—

1. M/s. Tata Oil Mills. Bombay.
2. M/s. Union Carbide (India) Private Ltd., New Delhi.
3. M/s. India Tobacco Company Ltd., Calcutta.
4. M/s. EID Parry Ltd., Madras.
5. M/s. Britannia Seafoods.

Exports price of Indian Iron Ore

9942. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the particulars regarding the current export price of Indian ore vis-a-vis the price of similar iron ore chargeable from Indian Steel Companies; and

(b) the steps taken for getting the maximum price for iron ore exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Export price of iron ore depends on its physical and chemical specifications, facilities in terms of draft at the ports and the rate of loading. Generally, grades that are exported are not sold by MMTC to Indian Steel Companies.

(b) As a result of negotiations with some of the foreign buyers substantial increase have been secured on iron ore export prices recently.

Non-traditional items registering an increase in Export Target

9943. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the names of the non-traditional goods whose export has

registered an increase till the last year and the target of their export during the Fifth Five Year Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): During April-November 1973, the latest period for which commodity-wise data is available, amongst the non-traditional goods whose export has registered an increase, the important ones are leather and leather manufactures, engineering goods, chemical and allied products, cotton apparel and handicrafts.

The terminal year's targets of their export during the Fifth Five Year Plan period as indicated in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan Document are as follows:—

Leather and leather manufactures Rs. 185 crores, engineering goods Rs. 400 crores, chemical and allied products Rs. 87 crores and handicrafts Rs. 220 crores.

Value of Soiled Currency Notes destroyed during 1973

9944. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value and denomination of soiled currency notes that were destroyed during the year 1973 as against the year 1972; and

(b) whether Government have taken measures to ensure that the soiled and unusable notes do not get into circulation again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The total value and denominations of soiled currency notes that were destroyed by the various offices of the Reserve Bank of India during the years 1972 and 1973 were