

Potential for More Textile Industries in Kerala

2572. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala has potential for more textile industries; and

(b) if so, which are the districts where new factories are proposed to be located?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The licensing policy followed during the Fourth Plan period in regard to creation of further spindleage and loomage was not based on any State-wise allocation. The creation of new spinning units was encouraged in the cooperative or public sector but no application was received for setting up of such new spinning units in Kerala. While permitting expansion of the cotton textile industry during the Fifth Plan period, creation of additional capacity in areas where there is an unsatisfied demand for yarn for handlooms and powerloom weavers and also in areas where cotton is grown in sufficient quantity but there is little, if any, local demand for spinning units, would be kept in view. Applications recommended by the Kerala Government, which fall within approved criteria, will receive favourable consideration.

Import of Books by S.T.C.

2573. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of foreign books in the country;

(b) if so, whether this is due to the change of policy regarding import of books by State Trading Corporation; and

(c) whether it has caused an adverse impact on indigenous book market of the country and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE). (a) No specific complaints have been received by Government in this behalf.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Arrears of Income Tax against Firms and individuals above rupees one lakh

2574. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons and firms against whom arrears of Income Tax of more than Rupees one lakh have been outstanding in the country;

(b) since when this amount has been outstanding; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government for its recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Information regarding arrears of Income-tax due from firms and individuals against whom arrears exceed Rs. 1 lakh is not readily available as it is not maintained in the Ministry and will have to be collected from the field organisations spread over the entire country. However, information regarding firms and individuals against whom arrears of income-tax exceeded Rs. 10 lakhs as on 31-3-74 is available in the Ministry and the names of such persons are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8297/74].

(b) These arrears relate to a large number of past assessment years, the earliest assessment year being 1940-41 and the latest 1973-74.

Arrears remain uncollected because of a variety of reasons some of which are given below:—

(i) They are stayed by various authorities including Appellate authorities like Income-tax Appellate Tribunal;

(ii) They are the subject matter of writs filed in High Courts who have issued injunctions restraining the department from collecting them;

(iii) D.I.T. Relief claim is pending;

(iv) Demands are due from persons who have left India;

(v) Amounts are disputed in appeals though not stayed;

(vi) Sale of shares in private limited companies present difficulties because, firstly, these shares are not freely transferable and, secondly, buyers may not be interested, as minority shareholders may not have any effective say in the management of the affairs of company;

(vii) Sale of attached immovable property also becomes difficult because of lack of buyers due to the influence exerted by the tax defaulters or the unpopular locality of the building. Sometimes the bids are lower than the reserve price and auction sales have to be held more than once;

(viii) Disputes regarding the ownership of assets give rise to collective and protracted litigation;

(ix) Assesseees have died leaving behind no assets or have become insolvent or are untraceable or have no attachable assets; and

(x) Demands are of a protective nature.

(c) All steps provided in law, including the following have been taken/are being taken, depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case:—

(i) Levy of penalty under section 221 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for non-payment of tax.

(ii) Attachment of salary under section 226(2).

(iii) Attachment of garnishee debts under section 226(3).

(iv) Attachment of money in courts under section 226(4).

(v) Distraint and sale of movable property under section 226(5).

(vi) Issue of Recovery Certificates under section 222.

(vii) Attachment/sale of movable/immovable property.

(viii) Detention of assessee in civil prison.

Export of Sugar during current year

2575. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar exported during the current year with unit value realised and how does it compare with the figures for the same period last year;

(b) what percentage does it represent in the total production last year; and

(c) the particulars of any other committed exports in the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The quantity of sugar actually exported during the current year (upto 11th August, 1974) and during the corresponding period last year has been 22,758 tonnes and 84,700 tonnes respectively. The average f.o.b realisation during the last year (upto 11th August, 1973)