

**Potential of Indian Handloom Products
in E.E.C. Countries**

4331. SHRI RAM HEDA00 : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the potential of the Indian Handloom products in the E.E.C. countries;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether the commodities for export to these countries have been identified, if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to sign an agreement in this respect, if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps to tap the potential for the Indian handloom products in the EEC countries include proposals for participation in the specialised fairs, exhibitions, organisation of teams/delegations both of buyers abroad and Indian businessmen, promotion through departmental stores etc.

(c) Handloom items with particular export potential include shirts/blouses of cotton and silk, towels, napkins, bedspreads, curtains and other furnishing materials.

(d) Apart from the annual duty-free quota within a certain ceiling available in the EEC countries efforts are also being made to secure improvements in the duty-free ceiling level and extension of this duty free treatment to other handloom products at present not included

Enquiry into Evasion of Taxes by National and Grindlays Bank

4332. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have investigated into the complaints of evasion of

Taxes by the National and Grindlays Bank Limited; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Assessments of the Bank for the assessment years 1970-71 and 1971-72 have already been completed. Suitable additions have been made therein on the basis of information received as well as detailed investigations made by the Department. Most of these additions have been contested in appeal. Some of the earlier assessments of the Bank have also been reopened.

Import of Polyester Fibre

4333 SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to his answer to Starred Question No. 352 on the 6th December, 1974; and state:

(a) whether the information about letters of authority/release orders issued to the various parties for importing polyester fibre after June, 1970 has since been collected, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement indicating the information collected so far is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 9261/75]

Proposal to air link Varanasi with important parts of the country

4334. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of religious, cultural and educational importance of Varanasi, Government propose to air link it