

Gulbarga (Karnataka) is closed and the number of employees of different categories affected as a result thereof;

(b) whether the Government is providing the pay and other facilities to the employees; and

(c) the scheme of the Government to revive the said mill as this is the only mill located in the backward area of Hyderabad and Karnataka region and the time by which the said mill is likely to be started again after removing all the obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The MSK Mills, Gulbarga has not been closed. There is presently only cessation of activities in the mill. The workers and employees numbering 907 in this mill are being paid idle wages.

(c) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[English]

Development of Handicrafts

502. SHRI K. P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed recently the ongoing programmes and schemes formulated for promotion and development of handicrafts in the selected areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and provided for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen during 1997-98, state-wise;

(d) the details of the new schemes taken up/proposed to be formulated for upgradation of skills of artisans and craftsmen through institutional support; and

(e) the other steps taken for promotion of traditional handicrafts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However the review is for the entire country. The programmes and schemes reviewed include: training; survey & studies; marketing development programme; setting of craft development centres; opening of new emporia and renovation/expansion of existing emporia; workshop-cum-housing; group insurance; common facility centre; health package and member education programme.

(c) State-wise funds are not allocated in the handicrafts

sectors. The funds provided for upgradation of skills of artisans including traditional artisans during 1997-98, state-wise is as per statement attached.

(d) The details of new schemes taken up/proposed for upgrading the skill of artisans through institutional support include: training for trainers; supply of modern tools and equipment; and member education programme.

(e) The other steps taken for promotion of traditional handicrafts of the country by the Government include survey and studies; design development; setting up of crafts development centres; opening of new emporia and renovation/ expansion of existing emporia; setting up of common facility centres.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount provided (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.34
2.	Assam	27.71
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.06
4.	Bihar	12.48
5.	Gujarat	7.70
6.	Goa	2.26
7.	Haryana	3.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.20
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.13
10.	Karnataka	23.68
11.	Madhya Pradesh	17.73
12.	Maharashtra	13.21
13.	Manipur	11.71
14.	Meghalaya	0.30
15.	Mizoram	-
16.	Nagaland	8.18
17.	Orissa	15.15
18.	Punjab	3.30
19.	Kerala	12.18
20.	Rajasthan	1.03
21.	Sikkim	9.68
22.	Tamil Nadu	12.69
23.	Tripura	- 12.76

1	2	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	78.81
25.	West Bengal	17.18
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.27
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	-
29.	Delhi	5.21
30.	Daman & Diu	-
31.	Pondicherry	0.77
32.	Lakshadweep	-

Dumping of Float Glass

503. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government are aware of the large scale dumping of float glass into Indian market by the Indonesian Companies at prices which are far below their cost of production; and

(b) if so, the details of the preventive measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Under the Anti-dumping laws; anti-dumping duties can be imposed only if there is evidence of dumping, injury and the casual link between the two. The Designated Authority, therefore, takes a view on initiation of a case and required investigations after receiving the necessary information from the affected industry. A petition has been received by the Designated Authority only on 27.5.98 alleging dumping of float glass from Indonesia.

Cashew Board in Kerala

504. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Government of Kerala for setting up of Cashew Board in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representation received from Govt. of Kerala stated that for the scientific promotion of a crop having vast commercial potential, setting up of a Board would be necessary. It is stated that this would help in providing full employment to

workers engaged in cashew industry, introduce better management, improved R&D and extension of cultivation of wastelands to result in an increase in production leading to full employment of approximately 1.3 lakh workers.

Rubber Prices

505. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released any quantity of Natural Rubber procured from farmers to the open market or to industrialists to avoid crash of price of natural Rubber;

(b) whether the State Trading Corporation has taken steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such release has further deteriorated the price of Natural Rubber;

(e) whether the Government propose to take action to raise the price of Natural Rubber to help the farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. STC has initiated steps to export and/or sell the procured rubber to Advance Licence Holders only.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government have recently authorised STC to procure 20000 MT of Natural Rubber on Government Account in addition to the 9596 tons already procured by STC to arrest the decline in the price of Natural Rubber.

Industrial Growth Centres in Assam

506. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released so far by the Union Government to the Government of Assam for development of these Industrial growth centres in the State;

(b) the amount utilised so far by the State Government in these three centres, centre-wise; and

(c) the target fixed and achievements made so far in respect of these growth centres, centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Of the three growth centres allotted to the State of Assam, two i.e. Chariduar (district Sonitpur) and Matia (district Golpara) have already been approved.