

assisting handloom weavers for the development of handlooms. An amount of Rs.6924.37 lakhs has been released during 1997-98 for implementation of various plan schemes in the handloom sector. Under the scheme of Workshed-cum-Housing, funds for construction of 18658 workshed were released, under the Thrift Fund Scheme, 213191 weavers were covered. Under the scheme of Group Insurance and Health Package, 106432 and 67463 weavers were covered respectively. Under the scheme of Project Package, 769 projects were sanctioned and 260 HDCs and 78 QDUs were sanctioned under the scheme of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units during 1997-98.

[English]

### Production of Tobacco

2073. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present production/export target fixed for tobacco in Karnataka during 1998-99;

(b) whether the Government propose to take any steps to enhance the production/export of tobacco during the next year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Production Target of FCV tobacco in - Kamataka for 1998-99 is 40 Million Kgs. State-wise export targets are not fixed.

(b) It is too early to determine the FCV tobacco crop size for next year in Karnataka. Crop size of FCV tobacco for the next year would depend upon on the anticipated international demand and supply. carryover stocks, domestic demand and domestic and international prices.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance export of tobacco interalia include:

- (i) Re-orienting production and developmental strategies to the changing international needs i.e., encouraging production of low tar, low nicotine and light soil tobaccos and discouraging production in undesirable soils.
- (ii) Enhancing quality and productivity levels of Indian tobacco and reducing production cost so as to make it more price competitive in international markets.
- (iii) Monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues.
- (iv) Aligning grading at farmers level in line with International grading standards.
- (v) Allowing exports of tobacco to Russia through "Debt Repayment Route".

(vi) Sponsoring Delegations abroad and participation in International Trade Fairs.

(vii) Inviting Delegations, from Foreign Tobacco Monopolies to visit India to understand quality and cost competitiveness of Indian tobacco and arranging meetings with Indian Tobacco Exporters.

(viii) Undertaking market promotion for Indian tobacco through advertisements in international magazines and through distribution of product brochures.

[Translation]

### International Trade Policy

2074. SHRI RAMSHAKAL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated an international trade policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the countries to be involved; and

(d) the details of items to be exported and imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major orientation of India's international trade policy is enunciated through Government's quinquennial Export-Import Policy documents. The current EXIM Policy for 1997-2002 has been designed with the following principal objectives:

(i) to accelerate the country's transition to a globally-oriented, vibrant economy, with a view to derive maximum benefits from expanding global market opportunities;

(ii) to stimulate sustained economic growth by providing access to essential raw materials, intermediates, components, consumer goods and capital goods required for augmenting production;

(iii) to enhance the technological strength and efficiency of Indian agriculture, industry and services thereby improving their competitive strength, while generating new employment opportunities, and encourage the attainment of internationally accepted standards of quality;

(iv) to provide consumers with good quality products at reasonable prices.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) not only assists Government in the formulation of the EXIM Policy, but also implements the Policy. After the economic and trade reforms initiated since 1991, the principal function of the Directorate is the promotion of exports and the facilitation of imports to promote export trade.