

(d) The Government have been taking a number of measures to boost exports of handloom products, such as sponsoring Buyer-seller Meets, participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes, etc.

[English]

Pollution by Two and Three Wheelers

2172. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the type of two and three wheelers which emit mono oxide after combustion;

(b) whether they meet the pollution standard; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) All the two and three-wheelers essentially emit carbon monoxide as one of the products of combustion process, other products being hydro carbon and nitrous oxide.

(b) Presently there are pollution standards (Emission Norms) for new two and three-wheelers. It is mandatory for all new vehicles being sold to meet both the norms before they are registered by the Transport Authorities. "In-Use two and three wheelers" are required to comply with "In-Use Emission Norms" specified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR). These are being checked on road by traffic officers as per present CMVR stipulations.

(c) If new two and three wheelers do not meet the "Emission Norms" they cannot be issued the CMVR Compliance Certificate and they cannot be registered by Transport Authority. In case of In-Use two and three-wheelers not meeting "In-use Emission Norms" they will not be allotted valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) sticker which is a requirement for vehicles plying on road under CMVR.

[Translation]

Insurance for Natural Calamities

2173. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether insurance cover is provided for reconstruction of the houses of those poor people whose houses are destroyed due to the natural calamities like fire, floods, cyclones and earthquakes etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to formulate any other schemes for the benefit of the poor people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) A Hut Insurance Scheme is available for poor families in Rural Areas covering very poor families whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs.4,800/-. The Scheme provides compensation of Rs.1,000/- for hut and Rs.500/- for belongings in the hut destroyed by fire only. The entire premium under the Scheme is borne by the Central Government and no premium is charged from the beneficiary. Apart from the above, a number of other covers are available, on payment of prescribed premium, with the four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India, such as, comprehensive Insurance - for individual house holders covering their dwellings and contents for natural calamities like fire, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, etc. and Farmers Package Policy - covering, amount other things, dwellings/household goods against the risks of fire, floods, cyclones, etc.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Sound and Light Programme in Teenmurti

2174. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restart the Sound and Light Programme show in Teenmurti House;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Sound and Light Show programme was discontinued in November, 1991 as the equipment which was earlier purchased in 1974 was found obsolete by M/s. Phillips India Limited.

(c) There is no proposal to restart the programme.

[English]

Export Defaulter Companies of Chennai

2175. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain export companies in Bombay and Chennai are not fulfilling their export obligations and are consistent defaulters;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to tackle any action against such defaulting companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Export obligation arises under different schemes in several ways. Most Companies obtain several licences annually under different schemes and default in export performance in respect of some of these licences. The data is therefore maintained licence-wise and not company-wise.

(c) and (d) Action against defaulters in Export Obligation is taken regularly under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. Such action includes cancellation or suspension of the licence, imposition of fiscal penalty, and in extreme cases, suspensions/cancellation of Importers and Exporters Code Number.

[Translation]

Production of Cotton

2176. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production position in the cotton mills set up in the Country is satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the amount earmarked for Technological Upgradation of Cotton Mills was proposed to be spent on priority basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The details of production of cotton yarn and cotton cloth by mills are given below:

Year	Cotton Yarn Production (Mn. Kg)	Cotton cloth Production (Mn. Sq.Mtrs.)
1995-96	1,894	1,159
1996-97	2,148	1,222
1997-98	2,213	1,238
1998-99 (Apr.-June)	489.41	280.30

The position is considered satisfactory.

(d) and (e) The proposal to set up a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is yet to be approved.

[English]

Credit Policy

2177. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to improve credit policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to help in economic revival?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had forwarded to Reserve Bank of India a number of suggestions for inclusion in the statement of the Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for 1998-99 released on October 30, 1998.

(b) It was suggested by the FICCI that credit policy should be used as a demand stimulator with a view to reviving the economy by providing credit to the commercial as well as distribution sector. Other suggestions made were in the areas of streamlining credit delivery, group approach to lending, reduction in the lending rate, lowering of the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), credit to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), establishment of bench mark rate and introduction of hedging instruments, interest tax etc. Such suggestions are duly considered by RBI in the formulation of policies. The credit requirements of the real sector could be adequately met in view of comfortable liquidity in the banking system.

[Translation]

Cheating of Foreign Tourists

2178. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Agra mein Vishakat bhojan Karakar thagi ka dhanda joron par" published in the "Navbharat Times" dated November 15, 1998;

(b) the number of foreign and Indian tourists who have become victims of cheating so far;

(c) whether the Government have taken proper action to safeguard tourists from these cheats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (d) Information has been sought from Government of U.P. in this regard.

Amount of Central Loan

2179. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the amount of Central loan pending as on April 1, 1997 and April 1, 1998, State-wise;