

People's Act one of its terms of references being consider the question of allowing the proxy voting for personnel of the armed forces;

(b) if so, the composition and detailed terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its recommendations to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) The issue of proxy voting for personnel of the Armed Forces is not amongst the terms of references of the Committee on State Funding of Elections headed by Shri Indrajit Gupta, Member of Parliament. The present term of the Committee is upto 31st December, 1998 and the Committee is likely to submit its report by that time.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of US Technology

2480. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and the United States have come to any conclusion regarding the supply of US technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US is also keen to supply the latest technology to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the latest US technology that is being provided to India?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) USA announced certain economic measures under its Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994 against India first on 13th May, 1998 in the wake of the nuclear explosions by India. On 19 November, 1998 US notified in the Federal Register 40 Indian entities along with 200 subordinate entities which will be covered by export restrictions. US exports to the listed entities would require licenses and most licenses would be denied. Subject to these restrictions, Government are receiving proposals aimed at technology collaborations involving US companies.

Development of Ports and Build Container Terminals

2481. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.K. Government has shown keen interest in the development of ports and build container terminals in the country;

(b) if so, whether a Ports and Terminals Group delegation from U.K. visited India in the month of September, 1998;

(c) if so, the main proposals submitted by the U.K. Government; and

(d) the extent to which the U.K. Government has agreed to develop the ports and build container terminals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A delegation of the United Kingdom comprising of various industries in the Port Sector visited India during the month of September, 1998 to explore business opportunities in development and management in Indian ports.

(c) No proposal have been received from the U.K. Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Hazardous Chemicals & Materials

2482. SHRI MAGANTI VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to Amend the Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989;

(b) if so, the details of amendment proposed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the act relating to work activities, safety and hazardous materials processing is also pending with the Government;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the likely time by which the decision is taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Draft amendments to the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 have been finalised. Major amendments proposed are :

(i) "Major Accident" is being redefined.

(ii) Definition of "Hazardous Chemicals" in Part I, Schedule 1 has been modified and list of chemicals in Part II of Schedule 1 has been expanded.

(iii) The scope of the application of the Low Level Controls prescribed under the Rules, namely, Reporting of Major Accidents, Preparation of Material Safety Data Sheets, Reporting of Imports of Chemicals and Dissemination of information to the public, has been expanded to cover all hazardous chemicals defined in Part I, Schedule 1.

(iv) The applicability of Rules 7 to 15 for isolated storages of chemicals listed in Schedule 2 has been modified.

(v) Threshold planning quantities in Column 3 for 5 entries of explosives in Schedule 3, Part I, Group 4 have been amended.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) No Sir.

Production of Cloth

2062. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target of production of cloth (in meters) during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total production in the organised and unorganised sectors during these years as per target fixed by the Government;

(c) whether the production has been satisfactory to meet the demand in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of per capita availability of cloth in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No State-wise targets for production of cloth are set. A statement on projection of cloth production and figures of actual production is attached.

(c) The production is considered satisfactory.

(d) Per capita availability of cloth in the country during the last three years is as follows:-

1995-96	-	27.99 sq.meters
1996-97	-	29.30 sq.meters
1997-98	-	30.78 sq.meters

Statement

Projections of cloth production and figures of actual production.

*Projections (in million sq.meters)**

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Cotton	16993	17820	19025
Blended	3641	4100	4346
100% NON-COTTON	7110	7680	10658

*source: Working Group Report on Textiles Jute Industry for Ninth Five Year Plan.

*Actual Production (in million sq.meters)***

Mill Sector

Cotton	1159	1222	1238
Blended	602	488	466
100% Non-cotton	258	247	244

Handloom Sector

Cotton	6239	6441	6699
Blended	18	52	69

100% Non-cotton	945	963	835
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Decentralised Powerloom Sector

Cotton	7014	7238	6652
Blended	3137	3948	4481
100% Non-cotton	7050	8166	9818

Decentralised Hosiery Sector

Cotton	4488	4940	5403
Blended	268	400	735
100% Non-cotton	282	193	256

**Source* Material for Annual Administrative Report (1998-99) furnished by the office to TXC.

Export Processing Zones

2063. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Export Processing Zones (EPZ) have been set up by the State Governments;

(b) whether any such export processing zones have also been set up in the joint/private sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Only one Export Processing Zone has been approved for establishment at Greater Noida (distt. Gautambudh Nagar) by the Govt. of U.P. No such proposals have so far been received from any other State.

(b) and (c) Three Export Processing Zones have been approved for establishment in private sector, as under:

Name of the Promoter	Location
1. M/s Diamond & Gem Development Corporation (DGDC), Mumbai.	Surat (Gujarat)
2. M/s Kay Foam Ltd., Mumbai.	Kandivli (E), Mumbai
3. M/s Colonac International (P) Ltd. Madras.	Singidivakam Village, Kancheepuram Taluk, (Tamil Nadu)

The private EPZ at Surat has become functional from 2.1.1996 and six projects have been approved for establishment in this zone. The other private EPZs are yet to become operational. No EPZ has, however, been approved for establishment in joint sector.

Export of Marine Products

2064. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the quantity and value of marine products exported during 1997 and 1998, till date?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : The following are the figures of exports of fish and fishery products from India during the calendar year 1997 and in the period from January 1998 to October 1998: