

larly, the concerns of the rubber industry have been fully kept in mind while finalising the lists. The duty concessions under the Free Trade Agreement will be available only on basic customs duties and not on additional customs duty in lieu of central excise and special additional duty, which provides enough protection to the domestic industry.

[English]

#### Decrease in Bilateral Trade

\*378. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether steady decrease in bilateral trade, aid combined with the sanctions imposed on India in the wake of the Nuclear tests are made it difficult for development agencies to undertake their programmes in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have pursued the matter with those countries and have held bilateral talks; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) The United States has imposed certain restrictive economic measures under its Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994. Measures announced by Canada, Japan, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland relate mostly to developmental assistance or concessional loans. However, most countries have exempted loans and financial aid, which is meant for meeting basic human needs. The Government is fully alive to the challenges posed by coercive economic measures and is taking necessary steps to safeguard the economic and national interests of the country.

The Government has been closely monitoring the economic measures announced against India and continuously assessing their likely impact, including impact on trade and commerce. Though any precise quantification of the impact of the economic measures may be difficult, so far the impact has been minimal. The fundamentals of the Indian economy are strong enough to be able to withstand any pressure arising out of the economic sanctions.

India has all along maintained that unilateral coercive measures are unjustified, counter productive and impede free flow of trade, technology and capital and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial economic interaction. Major countries have themselves refrained from imposing bilateral sanctions and within the US itself there has been a substantial rethinking on the efficacy of unilateral measures. This is reflected in the recent authorisation by the US congress to the US President to waive bulk of the sanctions against India and in exercising that authority the US administration has recently decided to lift partially some of the financial sanctions.

#### Setting up of Silk Reeling Units

\*379. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Silk Board propose to set up 300 multi-end reeling units in the country during the Ninth Plan;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to modernise the existing traditional reeling units and extending financial help to them for modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to provide assistance for installation of 200 numbers of 6 basin and 100 numbers of 10 basin multiend units with the objective of improving the productivity and quality of raw silk. The assistance would be provided by way of 30% subsidy to be shared equally between the State Govt. and the Central Govt., 60% as interest free loan to be provided by the Central Govt. and 10% contribution from the entrepreneur.

The scheme has been offered to all the State Governments. On the basis of proposals received through the State Government, as on 31.3.99, the number of units covered State-wise is indicated below :

S.No.	State	Six-basin	Ten-basin	Total
1.	Karnataka	7	15	22
2.	Tamil Nadu	5	9	14
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	4	6
4.	Andhra Pradesh	4	4	8
5.	Uttar Pradesh	5	2	7
6.	Madhya Pradesh	-	1	1
Total		23	35	58

(c) The main objective of the above scheme is to encourage the existing reelers to modernise/upgrade their Charaka or Cottage Basin Units by switching over to multiend machine which is an advanced reeling device by providing financial support to the reelers. Around 80% of the total coverage of the scheme will be for the existing reelers. As such implementation of the above scheme is an important step in the direction of the modernising the existing traditional reeling units. In addition existing reeling units can avail of the concessional finance available for modernisation under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme introduced w.e.f. 1.4.99.

#### Private Participation in Coal Sector

\*380. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided in principle to allow participation of private companies in mining and exploration of coal and lignite;

(b) if so, whether the previous law has been amended in this regard;

(c) if so, the total areas earmarked for private participation in the coal sector;

(d) the total quantity of coal likely to be extracted by these private companies per year; and

(e) the other terms and conditions laid down for private participation in the coal sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Bill to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is proposed to be introduced in Parliament during the current session.

(c) No specific areas have been earmarked for mining of coal in this context.

(d) It is only after the Bill is considered and passed by the Parliament, will it be possible for companies to apply for leases for mining of coal and it will only then be possible to estimate the quantity of coal likely to be extracted.

(e) The Bill itself has proposed that only Companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 would be eligible to mine coal. The Bill also seeks to empower the Government to specify the conditions under which private mining may be undertaken. Such conditions would however be specified only after the Bill is passed by the Parliament.

[Translation]

#### Integrated Handloom Development Scheme

3673. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV  
(JAHANABAD) :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme in the country during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total number of job opportunities made available under the said scheme;

(c) the number of schemes approved by the Government on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments; and

(d) the amount disbursed to each State Government during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme has been merged with the Project Package Scheme in 1997-98. State-wise details of number of villages covered under the Scheme during last three years are given in Statement-I. However, the number of villages covered in Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh from 1994-95 to 1996-97 are as under :-

Bihar	1
Gujarat	4
Uttar Pradesh	7

(b) On the basis of proposals received from various State Governments during the last three years (1994-95 to 1996-97), 14927 job opportunities are to be made available on completion of the projects which are under implementation.

(c) During the three years period (1994-95 to 1996-97) 148 projects were approved on the basis of viable proposals received from the State Governments.

(d) State-wise and Year-wise amount disbursed during last three years under the Scheme is given in Statement-II.

#### Statement-I

Statement showing State-wise number of villages covered under Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme during last three years.

Sl. No.	Name of State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Total
		Villages covered	Villages covered	Villages covered	Villages covered
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	12	25	37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	10	6	25	41
4.	Bihar	-	1	-	1
5.	Delhi	-	-	-	-