

Concession to Handloom Sector

6658. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise number of representations received by the Union Government from the Cooperative Societies and other organisations of handloom weavers to provide more concessions to them during the last three years till date;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of concessions being given to handloom weavers at present; and

(d) the number of handloom weavers benefitted by these concessions in various States particularly tribal areas of Gujarat till date ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The Union Government keeps on receiving representations from Cooperative Societies and other Handloom Organisations. The concessions/modifications are made under various schemes from time to time on merit of the case.

(c) Concessions to Handloom Weavers are given under the Schemes like Janata Cloth, Mill Gate Price, Market Development Assistance, Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Units, Project Package, Workshed-cum-Housing, Thrift Fund, Group Insurance, Health Package etc.

(d) The number of Handloom Weavers benefitted during the VIII Five Year Plan under the Schemes Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, Workshed-cum-Housing, Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Unit, Group Insurance, Health Package, Thrift Fund & Margin Money for Destitute Weavers are 47,81,250, out of which 1649 weavers have been benefitted in the tribal areas of Gujarat.

**Joint Venture on Textile Project between
STC and Israel**

6659. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation proposes to set up a joint-venture in textile project with Israel at a cost of US \$ 15 million;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government, have clear the above

proposal of the State Trading Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) STC submitted a proposal for equity participation for setting up a Knitted Fabrics/Garments Unit in Israel with the project cost of US \$ 15 million.

(c) and (d) After detailed examination, it has been conclude not to further process the proposal in terms of overall benefits to the country.

Standing Committee for Promotion of Exports

6660. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has held a series of meeting with all the Chief Ministers to increase their involvement in export;

(b) whether a study cell in this regard was set up in 1994;

(c) whether a Standing Committee for Promotion of Exports has been setup by the States and the Union Territories;

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

(e) whether the Government have asked the States to review and standardise the levies imposed by them on exporters to the extent possible to promote exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and to what extent these proposals have helped in boosting exports from the North-East region as well as from other States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Four meetings of Zonal level were convened in Oct.-Nov. 1995 by then Commerce Minister with Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors/Minister/Administrators of States/Union Territories as indicated below :-

(i) Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands at Hyderabad;

(ii) Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram & Manipur at Guwahati;

(iii) Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu &