

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now Shri Buta Singh asked the hon. Minister whether it was true that besides the use of money and muscle power, votes were sought in the name of Lord Rama. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister and all the political parties whether it was not true that except the Bhartiya Janata Party, leaders of all other political parties contacted Maulana Bukhari and requested him to issue a directive to Muslim community to cast votes in their favour...*(Interruptions)*... In the last elections, all of them requested Maulana Bukhari and he issued the directive and said that...*(Interruptions)*... He asked the people to cast the vote in a particular manner and made an appeal to defeat BJP. Was it justified? Will the hon. Minister treat it as misuse of religion and take steps to check such malpractices?

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR RAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a question, but an observation. I used to go on record to say that this system is unfair and untrue.

Export of Handloom and Powerloom Textiles

*2. **SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to export of handloom and powerloom textiles during the last two years;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the export of the handloom and powerloom textiles has declined due to the recent Gulf crisis; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the exports?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, Cotton handloom and powerloom textiles exports during the last two years were as under:—

	(Rs. in Crores)	
	1989-90	1990-91
Cotton Handloom Exports . . .	342	407
Cotton Powerloom Exports . . .	412	529

(c) and (d) The recent Gulf crisis did not have any significant impact on our cotton handloom and powerloom textile exports.

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by the Government...*(Interruptions)*... it has been stated that the textile exports during 1990-91 increased considerably...*(Interruptions)*... Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the increase in exports is because of rise in the prices or increase in the quantity exported? If the information is available with him, he may please let us know...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the complete details about exports have been given in the reply. There is continuous increase in exports since 1988-89, therefore it can be said that the Gulf crisis did not have any significant impact on the textile exports.

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the Gulf crisis did not have any effect on the exports, but as per my infor-

mation the Gulf crisis adversely affected the textile exports as well as textile manufacturers. Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether there is any proposal to provide relief to such manufacturers? The money of few manufacturers is blocked in the Gulf countries. The hon. Minister may please tell us whether the Government has any plan to help the manufacturers.

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as stated earlier, the Middle East market is of no significance in regard to export of textiles whether handloom or powerloom. During last year, our exports to Dubai alone were worth Rs. 45 crores. Therefore, if the hon. Member has any other information, he should give us, we will take action.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister might be aware of the fact that in Bihar thousands of weavers are dependent on handloom industry. The Central Government exports the textiles produced by the handloom industry in the states but as far as the question of Bihar is concerned, the textiles produced by the weavers of Bihar are not exported by the Central Government and due to this, the weavers of that State are facing great hardship. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will give an assurance that Bihar will also get its share in exports and the textiles produced by the weavers of that State will also be included in the export-list of textiles.

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Sir, it is the policy of the Government to encourage the handloom industry in every State. In regard to the issue raised by the hon. Member that Bihar is not getting necessary assistance in respect of handloom industry, I would like to say that if the details are made available to us we will definitely take action. I want to assure you that every facility will be provided to the weavers of Bihar to encourage the export of goods produced by them.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given an assurance that on receiving details, he will provide every facility to the handloom industry in Bihar. Sir, you as well as the whole nation is aware of the superior quality of silk produced by handlooms in Bhagalpur in Bihar. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will provide any special facility to weavers of Bhagalpur keeping view the hardships faced by them due to riots during the last two-four years.....

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about handlooms.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I am coming to the issue of exports. Will any arrangements be made for export of silk produced in Bhagalpur.

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of the information provided by the hon. Member. I will give instructions to the Ministry to make necessary arrangements for exports.

[English] 22

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, handloom industry is an important foreign exchange earner to the country but, unfortunately, the steps that the Government have taken to promote the exports are quite inadequate. For example, after the Government has announced the new policy with respect to the export, the cash compensatory support and some other incentives have been taken away. But, at the same time, some of the exporters have already entered into trade agreements with some foreign countries on rupee basis. On the one hand, they are not getting any incentive from the Government and, on the other hand, they are incurring a heavy loss in respect of their export of handloom products. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have any idea or any programme or policy to assist the exporters, es-

pecially from State like Kerala from where they will be exporting products like handloom crape to the Western European countries and to Japan. The importing materials like hank yarn, because it is very difficult for them as import restrictions on hank yarn under the new licensing policy, especially under the new conditions that the Government has now imposed. So, I would like to know whether the Government has any other special programme to promote the export from the country, especially from places like Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy of the Government is to encourage the handloom industry and on the basis of this policy recently the Government has taken some steps. As a result thereof, some doubts have arisen in the minds of the people. I would like to say that the new steps have created favourable conditions in the handloom industry but as far as the issue of export of handloom goods is concerned, I would like to make it clear that the issue raised by the hon. Member comes under the purview of the Ministry of Commerce. I would like to assure him that the Government will do its best to protect the interests of handloom industry. Handloom industry has made great progress in the Southern States and Government will encourage the export of textiles from other States also and take steps to promote the exports of these goods.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Sir, I come from the weaver community of Gujarat. Weavers are there in a large number in Gujarat but they are not getting remunerative prices for their products. They have not been provided facilities for exporting their products. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether Government will provide special facilities to them at the Government textile markets in Gujarat and whether Government also proposes to provide financial assistance to these weavers?

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are already being given facilities and steps are being taken to provide more facilities to them. Many schemes are being formulated for the export of their products and to remove hardships they are facing.

24-3 / Sale of Gold

[English]

*3. **SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:**

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of gold sold recently by the Union Government;
- (b) the details of the terms and conditions of the sale;
- (c) the reasons for selling the gold; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken to retrieve the gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Union Government leased 20 metric tonnes of confiscated gold held in government account to the State Bank of India as per lease agreement.

In turn, the State Bank of India entered into a sale transaction with repurchase option with Union Bank of Switzerland.

(b) (i) As per the lease agreement dated 16th May, 1991 entered into between Govt. of India and SBI, GOI leased to SBI, 20 metric tonnes of gold to raise foreign exchange reserves expected to be of the order of \$ 200 million. The period of lease is six months; extendable by mutual agreement. The consideration for lease is