

admitting the SLP, the Hon'ble Supreme Court stayed refund of the amounts collected from the exporters under the system. The appeal is now pending before the Supreme Court.

(c) An amount of Rs. 56.62 Cr. had been collected as Premium amount under the Open Tender System during its operation. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 42.50 lakh was released during 1989 to the Apparel Export promotion Council for export promotion activities.

#### **Economic Collaboration with Portugal**

697. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to establish economic collaboration with Portugal; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified or agreement signed for the establishment of economic collaboration with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fisheries and Food processing are two areas identified for possible joint venture projects between the two countries. An agreement of Collaboration was signed between the Portuguese Institute of Foreign Trade and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 26.1.1992.

[*Translation*]

#### **Functioning of DRD Laboratory**

698. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years since when Defence Research and Development Laboratory is functioning;

(b) whether functioning of the laboratory has been reviewed during the last ten years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on this laboratory during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Twenty nine and half years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The functioning of this laboratory has been reviewed by Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri during September 1984 and February 1987. It has also been reviewed by Raksha Rajya Mantri during August 1986 and December 1991. In addition, specific Project/Programme Management Boards also periodically review the research and development projects under progress.

(d) Total expenditure for the last three years is Rs. 193.02 crores.

#### **Sainik Schools**

699. SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more Sainik Schools in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNAKUMAR): (a) to (c). A Sainik School is opened on the specific request of a State Government/Union Territory Administration as the entire capital expenditure and a major portion of the recurring expenditure has to be met by it. No concrete proposal from any of the State Government/UT Administration is currently under the active consideration of the Ministry of Defence.

[English]

**Benefits to Foreign Companies due to changes in FERA**

700. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the changes in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 announced by the Reserve Bank of India are more beneficial for foreign companies which will be entering India with an equity holding of 51 per cent under the new Industrial Policy as compared to the existing Indian companies where overseas equity holding is up to 40 per cent; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not offering equal concessions to all to companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Crisis faced by Handloom Weavers of Madhya Pradesh**

701. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted any survey about the problems being experienced by handloom weavers of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major problem experienced by the handloom weavers in the country including Madhya Pradesh is the high yarn prices. Government is constantly reviewing the price situation and has taken corrective steps. The State sector and Co-operative sector spinning mills have been directed to augment the production of crucial counts of yarn and exercise restraint in prices. The spinning mills in the private sector have also been persuaded to supply yarn to handloom weavers at moderately reduced prices.

**Export to Jordan**

702. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main items being exported to Jordan;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the Country by exporting those items during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase export to Jordan in the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?