

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) In the current year, exports from April 1991 to February 1992 have reached Rs.5462 crores (Provisional) There is good potential for increasing exports significantly during the 8th Plan Period

(b) and (c) Floor prices for export of garments which are subject to quota restrictions in various importing countries are fixed every year with the main objectives of i) maximising export earnings, ii) eliminating unhealthy competition resulting in export of cheap products against limited quotas, iii) reducing the scope for under invoicing and iv) minimising price adjustments between different quota allotment systems

(d) and (e): Garment export trade is hitherto concentrated mainly in urban areas

#### Export of Silk

4984. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the export of silk,

(b) if so, the target fixed for the Eight Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to increase the export in the above plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Government are making concerted efforts to increase export of silk textile products. The tentative target for export of silk textile products for the VIIIth Five Year Plan is Rs. 3074.00 crores.

(c) The Indian Silk Export Promotion

Council set up for promotion of export of silk textile products is taking various steps for promotion of exports which inter-alia, include participation in trade fairs, organisation of 'Buyer-Seller Meets', sponsoring of Sales-cum-Study Teams, undertaking market surveys and special market/product promotion programmes etc

#### Import of Newsprint

4985. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate requirement of newsprint in the country;

(b) whether newsprint is being imported to meet the growing requirement;

(c) whether State Trading Corporation had signed an agreement with eastwhile Soveit Union to import newsprint;

(d) if so, the total quantum of newsprint which was to be imported;

(e) the quantum of newsprint already imported from that country during the current year, so far;

(f) whether the recent political development has any adverse impact on the agreement, and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM). (a) and (b) The approximate requirement of standard newsprint in the country during the current year has been estimated at the level of 5.5 lakh tons and the newsprint is imported to bridge the gap between indigenous demand and supply.

(c) Yes Sir,

(d) and (e). Against the contracted quantity of around 33,330 MTTs of newsprint during 1991-92, an overall quantity of 49,700 MTs (Provisional) of newsprint has been received which includes a quantity of 16,940 MTs as 'Carried Forward' from the previous year.

(f) No, Sir,

(g) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Inconvenience to Passangers at  
Ahmedabad Airport**

4986. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers coming from abroad are experiencing inconvenience at Ahmedabad airport at the hands of customs officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given in part (a) above.

(c) Customs Officers at all International airports are under instructions to be courteous and helpful to all international passengers. Senior officers of the departments are also available on the spot to oversee clearance operations.

**Development of Powerloom Sector**

4987. SHRIMATI BASAVA-  
RAJESWARI:  
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA  
RAJE:  
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA:  
SHRI KARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI R.SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased State-wise:

(a) The number of powerloom registered in the country as on date, State-wise:

(b) whether the powerlooms sector has remained unregulated for the last several years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of units closed due to prevailing crises faced by these units, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a fund exclusively for the development of the powerloom sector in the country;

(e) if so, whether this fund would be patterned after the Textile Modernisation Fund meant for the organised mill sector;

(f) if so, whether any norms have been laid down for the utilisation of this fund by the above sector;

(g) if so, the allocation of fund made so far to the States, State-wise; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK  
GEHLOT): (a) Number of looms registered as on 31.12.1991 is 11,34,966. The State-wise details are as given in the enclosed statement I.

(b) Registration of Powerloom was regulated after the announcement of Textile Policy in 1985.