

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard;

(c) whether the Company has since paid the amount as directed by the Tribunal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Upto date information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loans to Artisans

1249. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide loans on low-rates of interest to the artisans in the country to promote the handicrafts projecting Indian Culture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of artisans provided such loans during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No specific scheme is being implemented by the Government to provide loans to artisans in the country to promote handicrafts projecting Indian Culture. However, handicraft artisans are eligible to get loans at low rate of interest under various poverty alleviation programmes which inter alia include Integrated Rural Development Programme and its allied programmes like TRYSEM, DWCRA etc. Besides, under various schemes of Banks and Financial Institutions involving refinance from NABARD and SIDBI, loans are available at low interest rate to handicrafts artisans.

(c) State-wise data on number of handicrafts artisans availing of such loans is not available separately.

[English]

Board of Directors of Banks

1250. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reconstitute Board of Directors of Nationalised Banks and Financial Institutions; and

(b) if so, the details of fresh initiatives proposed and to ensure induction of professionals in the Board of Directors with proven track-record for effective functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Appointments of Directors on the Boards of

nationalised banks and financial institutions are made in accordance with the criteria and procedure prescribed in the relevant statutes. A number of professionals have already been inducted on the Boards of Directors of nationalised banks and financial institutions. While constituting such boards the plurality of Indian society is also kept in view.

IDBI Loan to the Entrepreneurs of Maharashtra

1251. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of application received by IDBI from entrepreneurs of Maharashtra during each of the last three years with break-up of applications approved and funds released;

(b) total financial assistance provided by IDBI to industrial ventures in Maharashtra during the last three years with percentage of growth;

(c) whether progress/performance of IDBI assisted projects in Maharashtra was reviewed recently by experts committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of IDBI defaulters in Maharashtra and amount involved; and

(f) the action taken for recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per information provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the details of applications received under direct finance scheme by IDBI from entrepreneurs in Maharashtra and assistance sanctioned during the last three years was as under :

Year	Application received No.	Applications to which assistance sanctioned	
		No.	Amount
1993-94	453	359	2857
1994-95	409	383	3782
1995-96	322	245	3245

(Rs. crore)

(b) Details of financial assistance provided by IDBI to industrial ventures in Maharashtra during the last three years are given below :

Year	(Rs. crore)			
	*Assistance Sanctioned	% growth	Assistance disbursed	growth
1993-94	3113	+50.7	1938	+74.2
1994-95	3964	+27.3	2450	+26.4
1995-96	3556	-11.3	1994	-18.6

* Schemes covered are direct finance, refinance and bills finance.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) IDBI has reported that as on 31.03.1996, there were 111 defaulters to IDBI in Maharashtra involving an amount of Rs. 212.7 crore.

(f) IDBI has reported that its senior executives periodically review the cases and take corrective steps, incase incipient sickness is observed, such steps include reschedulement of principal dues, deferment of interest, waiver of penal interest etc. to tide over the temporary difficulties. Sick units falling under the definition of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 are referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and rehabilitation schemes are drawn in case of viable projects. Suitable legal remedies are initiated in respect of non-viable projects. One time settlement is also entered into with the borrowing units.

Export of Cotton

1252. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations against the decision to allow the second instalment of cotton export within the two months of commencement of the cotton season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cotton allowed to be exported as on date, from the day of cotton season; and

(d) the quantum of cotton exported as well as imported during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) and (b) The Government received a representation dated 31st Oct., 1996 from Northern India Textile Mills Association (NITMA) against the decision of the Government to release an export quota of 5 lakh bales of cotton as on 7.10.96 for the 1996-97 cotton season. In their representation, NITMA inter-alia suggested that Government should defer cotton exports not release upto January, 1997, remove restrictions on cotton yarn exports and not put cotton exports under OGL.

(c) So far, quotas for a total of 12.20 lakh bales of cotton have been released by the Government with effect from 25.9.96.

(d) The quantum of cotton exported and imported during the last three years is as follows :

(in lakh bales of 170 Kg.)

Year	import	Export
1993-94	3.00	3.89
1994-95	5.89	1.086
1995-96	0.50	12.24

Emphasis on SSI in 9th Plan

1253. DR. ASIM BALA :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to lay emphasis on the development of Small Scale Industrial Sector in Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to promote Small Scale Industry in that Plan period; and

(c) the details of incentives proposed to be given to Small Scale Industrial Sector in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) According to the Approach Paper for the Ninth Plan, which was approved by the National Development Council, employment generation would be a priority area. Considering the capability of generating additional employment by the Small Scale Industrial (SSI) sector at lower investment levels in comparison to large and medium scale sector, emphasis would be laid upon for the development of Small Scale Industrial sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) As the detailed 9th Plan is yet to be formulated, it is premature at this stage to indicate the steps/incentives proposed to be given to the Small Scale Industrial sector.

[Translation]

Policy to Boost Export

1254. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to boost the trade with other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new markets were found during the last year for any specific exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the achievements made in our foreign trade in view of part (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Government through its Policy and Procedures aims to provide an export friendly and favourable environment for boosting exports. Continuous efforts are made to improve trade with all countries through bilateral and multilateral efforts.

(c) and (d) Government attaches importance to increasing trade with all trading partners. However, special efforts were made recently through agreement on border trade with Myanmar, opening of trade ties