

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided to them by the Union Government during the last year; and

(c) the scheme under which assistance is being given to them alongwith the guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) At present 2539 Handloom Cooperative Societies are functioning in the State of Assam.

(b) and (c) During the year 1995-96, financial assistance of Rs. 13.06 Crores has been provided under the following Handloom schemes:-Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, National Silk Yarn Bank, Hank Yarn Price Subsidy, Janata Cloth, Health Package, Handloom Development Centre, Market Development Assistance, Margin Money for Destitute Weavers, Workshed-cum-Housing and Jute Handloom Development Centre Scheme.

Under the various Handloom Schemes the assistance is provided to the Handloom Cooperative Societies for supply of inputs, training, development of products, marketing, welfare of weavers etc. The pattern of financial assistance varies from scheme to scheme.

Foreign Institutional Investors

3289. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) will be allowed to invest in any listed companies in the infrastructure sectors;

(b) if so, whether these changes have been proposed by the Government and referred to the SEBI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) In terms of the guidelines announced by the Government on 14th September 1992, read with Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) Regulation 1995 as amended from time to time. FIIs are allowed to invest in the securities of all listed and unlisted companies, including companies in the infrastructure sector.

Narcotic Problem in Goa

3290. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the narcotic problem continues unabated in Goa;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make some changes in the drug laws for tackling the growing drug abuse problem in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Drug trafficking is a clandestine activity. Although seizures of various narcotic drugs in the State of Goa during the year 1996 have shown a declining trend compared to the data of narcotic drugs seized during 1995, it cannot be said definitely whether narcotic problem in Goa continues unabated.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to amend the N.D.P.S. Act, inter-alia, to rationalise the sentence structure so as to make the Act more effective by providing stringent punishment even for offences relating to cannabis including cultivation of cannabis. The enhanced punishment for previous convicts for selected offences is proposed to be extended to all the offences under the Act.

[*Translation*]

Fall Back Wages

3291. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of collieries in which the workers were paid 'fall back wages' during the last three years, colliery-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons due to which 'fall back wages' are paid;

(c) the reasons due to which maximum 'fall back wages' were paid during the last three years; and

(d) the amount spent under 'fall back wages' head during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The information relating to names of collieries in which the workers were paid 'fall back wages' during the last three years, colliery-wise and year-wise is quite voluminous. The efforts and labour involved in collecting the same will not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved. However, numbers of collieries, company-wise and year-wise where fall back wages during the last three years was paid are as under:

Company	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
ECL	114	110	106
BCCL	78	78	76
CCL	34	34	37
NCL	Nil	Nil	Nil
WCL	41	41	45
SECL	16	19	23
MCL	6	5	5
NEC/CIL	Nil	1	Nil