

Tender System for use by Central Government Ministries/ Departments/Agencies is limited only to the handloom units notified by the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of Government. The eligible agencies can, however, avail assistance for setting up of Yarn Depot under the Mill Gate Price Scheme in accordance with its guidelines.

(c) Under various handloom schemes of the Government, the assistance is provided for input supplies, training, design development, technical development, marketing etc. and also for the welfare of weavers including economically weaker weavers.

[English]

German Aid

2754. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Germany has decided to cut aid of certain nations including India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent this decision is likely to affect the ongoing projects at present?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The Government has cancelled inter-Governmental negotiations on Development Co-operation with India and Pakistan in response to the nuclear tests. However, there is no cut in aid for ongoing projects in India.

Restriction on Demand of Coal

2755. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to restructure the demand of coal by power generating companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the decision has adversely affected the public sector coal units; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The demand of coal for each thermal power station is assessed and finalised in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, the Railways and the Coal Companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (c) above.

Cheating by Travel Agencies

2756. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Touts send Kumb tourists to J&K" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated June 10, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken action against such fake tourist agents/touts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the press report two Italian tourists who wanted to go to Haridwar to attend the Kumbh Mela were duped by some Delhi based travel agents and were sent of Srinagar on the plea that the venue of the Mela has been changed because of alleged riots in U.P.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism is regularly holding discussions with various agencies like the Airport Authorities, Delhi Police etc. to regulate the activities of unscrupulous agents/touts. In this particular case as reported in the *Pioneer* of June 10, 1998 regarding cheating by Travel Agencies, which *prima facie* appeared to be a criminal offence, the matter was taken up with the Commissioner of Police, Police Headquarters, Delhi and the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Tourism), Government of Jammu and Kashmir for immediate action.

Loans to Farmers

2757. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is planning to give any relaxation for unpaid loans given to farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech for 1998-99, it was announced, *inter-alia*, as under :

"Farmers often face chronic problems of overdue loans due to circumstances beyond their control. They are even committed to civil prison for this default. While the repayment culture must improve, this government is determined to create conditions so that no farmer goes to jail for a loan repayment default or is forced to commit suicide. The Reserve Bank will be issuing appropriate guidelines to the banks for hassle-free settlement of old