

(a) whether Group 'D' officers of the Central Excise and Customs went on an indefinite strike throughout the country from the 15th May, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their main demands;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure early call off of their strike;

(e) whether any agreement has been made with the All India Customs and Central Excise Group 'D' Officers Federation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (f) The Members of the All India Customs & Central Excise Group 'D' Officers Federation proceeded on strike from 18th May, 1998 in pursuance of their following demands :

- (i) Pay scales at par with those of CBI/Delhi Police Constables for the Sepoys of Customs & Central Excise.
- (ii) Five promotions during the service career.
- (iii) 25% quota for the sepoys in the air pool at International airports.
- (iv) Washing allowance at market rates.
- (v) Cash payment in lieu of uniform.
- (vi) Increase/revival of Sepoy posts.

2. The demands of the Federation were discussed with the representatives of the Federation. The Central Board of Excise & Customs provided its response to the demands made by the aforesaid Federation and consequently the Federation has called off the strike w.e.f. 18th June, 1998.

[Translation]

Favourable Environmental Technique in Textiles

3568. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate of the expenditure to be incurred on adoption of

technique favourable to the environment in textiles industry including handloom and powerloom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to adopt this technique during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the amount allocated for the purpose.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, looking to the felt needs of the industry, the Government has undertaken a scheme for expansion/setting up of testing facilities in the country through a network of laboratories. Besides, steps have also been initiated for offering consultancy to the aspiring textile units including handloom and powerloom on professional basis relating to Environmental Management System and also for creating awareness regarding eco-friendly techniques through seminars, workshops, publication of literature, etc.

Development of Rural Industries

3569. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided to each state for the development of rural industries during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the budget allocation during 1997-98 and in the current year for this purpose is quite low as compared to 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Setting up of Rural Industries is primarily the responsibility of the individual entrepreneurs. However, Central and State Governments supplement their efforts by way of providing infrastructural facilities, incentives, financial assistance through various institutions like SIDBI, NABARD etc., for setting up industries in the rural areas as well as imparting training to the rural artisans for development of skill in various trades.

Sectorwise/Schemewise funds allocation for development of rural industries in various States are being made by the respective State Governments, after finalisation of the budget proposals by the Planning Commission. The details of the funds allocated during the last three years for development of rural industries in various States by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and Coir Board, under the administrative control of the Department of SSI & ARI, are given in statement I & II.