

Year	Quantity	Value (Rs.)
1995-96	1143	166,271,059
1996-97	1156	205,921,762
1997-98 (April-August '97)	595	88,463,987

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

The import of such quantities does not adversely affect the rubber industry where projected production and consumption during 1997-98 is 5.84 Lakhs MT and 5.74 Lakhs MT respectively.

#### Import of Textile Garments

3608. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Government to allow import of textiles garments including synthetic textiles through Special Licence Route during 1995-96;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed its impact on revenue earnings and also on production of textiles by the handloom and powerloom sectors;

(c) if so, the total revenue earnings from this sector during the last two years and expected shortfall during the next two years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the handloom/powerloom sectors?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Two separate Notifications were issued on 15-2-1995 allowing imports of certain items freely without an import licence and imports of certain other items against Special Import Licence (SIL), as required under the Indo-US and the Indo-EU Market Access Agreements signed under the aegis of the Multi Fibre Arrangements (MFA) and subsequently under the Agreement on Textile and Clothing (ATC) of WTO, which came into force w.e.f. 1.1.1995. Imports under SIL, as per the EXIM Policy, carry the normal import duty as per the policy announced from time to time.

The production of textiles by handloom and powerloom sectors have not been affected.

The total revenue earnings from the textile industry during the last two years and the budget for 1998-99 are as follows:

	(Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	5071.53 (Actuals)
1997-98	5605.83 (Revised)
1998-99	6183.38 (Budget)

Government anticipates no revenue shortfall at this stage.

(d) The Government is generally monitoring the situations and any representations from the affected sector could be examined under the laws including the safeguard provisions of the W.T.O. agreements.

#### Small Savings

3609. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount realised through small savings during the Eighth Plan, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether there was a decline in small savings collections during that period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any target was fixed in this regards;

(e) if so, the reasons for not meeting the desired target through small savings; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the collection under small savings schemes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The amount realised through small savings during the Eighth Plan, year-wise and State-wise is given in statement.

(b) There has been a steady growth in the collections over the years except a slight lowering in 1995-96.

(c) The slight decline in 1995-96 is perhaps due to discontinuation of Institutional Investment in several scheme w.e.f. 1.4.1995.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The steps include :

(i) Operating 11 schemes catering to different categories of investors on very attractive terms with tax incentives and the assured advantage of liquidity, safety and operational ease.

(ii) A large network of Post Offices and Public Sector Banks to collect the funds under these schemes including in remote and rural areas.

(iii) An agency force of over 3.5 lakhs under three agency schemes to reach the investors at the grassroot level. Grievances Cells have been set