

madeups products from China, Bangladesh and Nepal during the last three years have been as follows :

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Bangladesh	Nepal	China
1995-96	153.77	3820.11	11427.62
1996-97	424.43	5236.24	14587.63
1997-98	2952.15	8949.29	21950.04

It was due to reasons including market prices, import policies, like items kept under OGL or restricted list etc., depending upon purposes of domestic consumption or re-exports etc.

There has not been adverse impact on our handloom and powerloom sectors on this account. Government is generally monitoring the situation. Any representations from the industry could be examined under the available provisions of the W.T.O. agreements.

[Translation]

International Level Tourist Places in Himachal Pradesh

3487. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of tourist centres of International level in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the number of foreign tourists visited there during each of the last three years; and

(c) the efforts made by the Union Government to attract more National and International tourists there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : The main tourist centres in Himachal Pradesh include Shimla, Kullu-Manali, Chail, Lahoul, Spiti, Saharar, Hatkoti, Chintpurani, Keylong, Dharamshala, Sarchu, Swarghat, Kangra, Jawalamukhi, Manikaran, Paonta Sahib, Barog, Rampur, Kharapathar, Solan, Kufri, Chindi, Palampur, Saravari, Nahan, Chansal. The tourist centres are visited both by domestic and international tourists.

(b) The number of foreign tourists who visited Himachal Pradesh during the last three years is as follows :

1995	47903
1996	51360
1997	52901

(c) The Union Ministry of Tourism sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 1611.21 lakhs for the

implementation of 75 projects in Himachal Pradesh during Eighth Plan. The assistance sanctioned during 1997-98 was Rs. 119.00 lakhs for 5 projects. In addition, Publicity brochures on Himachal Circuits have been brought out by the Ministry of Tourism.

[English]

Recommendations of Finance Commission

3488. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations made by the last Financial Commission in favour of States and not as per their required demands against the losses suffered due to natural calamities and economic backwardness;

(b) if so, whether the State like Orissa have suffered the most and hence requested the Centre for special consideration; and

(c) if so, the specific steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Every Finance Commission evolves certain objective criteria for distribution of Central taxes and duties among the States. The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) adopted the criteria of population, distance of per capita income, area adjusted, index of infrastructure, and tax effort. For working out the size of the calamity relief fund the Commission took into account the average of aggregate of ceilings of expenditure for the years 1983-84 to 1989-90 and the amount of calamity relief fund for the years 1990-91 to 1992-93. The amount so worked out for all the States was adjusted for inflation upto 1994-95, and thereafter at graduated rates upto 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The TFC adopted objective criteria which were fair to all States. The award of the TFC was accepted by the Government of India. Although the Government of Orissa had made a request for special dispensation to write off Rs. 2100 crores from the outstanding debt of the State Government, the same could not be agreed to.

Recovery of Loans

3489. SHRI NAKLI SINGH :
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated June 3, 1998 captioned "Bank fails to recover loans worth 700 crores";

(b) if so, the facts of matter reported therein and the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the non-performing accounts included a loan of Rs. 7 crores was given to Arnica International and Arco Exports for benefiting the then Chairman's son; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to recover the loans?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The NPAs of the Punjab and Sind Bank for the last three years are as under :

(Rs. Crore)

1994-95	619.32
1995-96	957.53
1996-97	1089.70
1997-98*	645.00

*Provisional

(c) and (d) As per the records of the Punjab and Sind Bank, no proprietor/Partner/guarantor in the accounts of Arnica International & Arco Exports is a son of a former CMD of the bank. These accounts have been classified as NPA as on 31.3.1998. The bank has filed a civil suit against the proprietor/guarantor, besides a criminal complaint. The bank has also filed Exports Credit and Guarantee Corporation claim relating to pre-shipment and post-shipment advances granted in the account of Arnica International. The outstanding in both the accounts without interest suspense amounts to Rs. 6.87 crores against which a provision of Rs. 5.62 crores is reported to have been made.

Scheme for Development of Handicrafts Sector

3490. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate/launch any Scheme for development of handicrafts sector and welfare of handicrafts craftsmen in tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Schemes;

(c) the funds provided under each Plan/Scheme during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise; and

(d) the number of craftsmen engaged in the handicrafts sector, state-wise, particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The development of the handicrafts sector and welfare of handicrafts craftsmen in the country, including the tribal areas of the country, the schemes under implementation include areas of training, marketing and marketing development support; setting up of craft development centre/emporium; exhibition and publicity; pension; workshop-cum-housing; group insurance etc.

(c) Statement showing the details of funds provided under each Plan Scheme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is enclosed.

(d) While a census of craftsmen engaged in the handicrafts sector is under progress, Statement-II showing the estimated number of craftsmen state-wise including in the state of Maharashtra is enclosed.

Statement-I

For the year 1995-96

Name of the Plan Schemes

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Exhibition	Publicity	Design	Training	Marketing	Marketing Dev. Support	Survey Study	Welfare	Craft Dev. Centre	Revival of Languishing Crafts	Total all of Schemes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17.46	1.89	3.60	7.39	17.14	1.97	5.49	—	1.87	6.37	63.18
2.	A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.50	—	—	—	1.50
3.	Arunachal Pd.	—	—	—	1.75	—	—	1.98	—	—	—	3.71
4.	Assam	16.15	1.39	—	6.08	6.50	54.77	4.85	41.00	—	—	130.74
5.	Bihar	1.43	0.07	2.11	16.00	1.13	—	5.70	—	—	—	26.44