

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government provides Central Financial Assistance to identified fairs and festivals on receipt of specific proposals from State Governments. These fairs and festivals are promoted overseas vis-a-vis the needs of each market by way of advertising in the print and electronic media, brochures support, participation in marts, direct mailing and organising of "Know India" seminars. However, no proposal for identification of this festival for Central financial assistance has been received from the State Government.

Capital level for Garment Industry

2570. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to increase the level of Capital from 1 crore to 3 crore for garment industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its effect on Industry in present cost?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) According to the latest Government order, notified vide S.O. 857 (E) dated 10.12.97 in the Part-II, Section 3, Sub-Section (ii) of the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 11.12.97, the limit of investment in plant and machinery for small scale industrial undertakings, including those in the ready-made garment sector, has been increased to Rs. 3 crores.

TWRF Scheme

2571. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2692 dated August 8, 1997 and SQ No. 43 dated November 21, 1997 regarding TWRF Scheme and State:

(a) whether a final decision has since been taken in this regard;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and the details of the efforts made during this intervening period to this effect;

(c) the present status of the issue; and

(d) by when the funds are likely to be released for this purpose to obviate the enormous problems being faced by these workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) The Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund

Scheme (TWRFS) has not so far been extended to Central and State PSUs. The matter is still under examination in consultation with the concerned authorities.

Tractor Production Capacity of HMT

2572. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present tractor production capacity and capacity utilisation of the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited (HMT);

(b) whether the HMT has any proposal to increase its tractor production and capacity utilisation in collaboration with a joint venture partner;

(c) if so, the measures taken by HMT in that direction and the success achieved thereby;

(d) whether HMT is also planning to sign a memorandum of understanding with its erstwhile technical collaborators Motkov to launch tractor of higher horse power; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the results of the efforts made in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) The production of HMT Tractors during 1997-98 was 19,501 numbers which is 103% of its capacity.

(b) to (e) HMT has been looking for a joint venture partner including renewal of collaboration with erstwhile collaborator M/s. Motkov. Efforts in this direction are continuing.

[Translation]

Coal Depots to Displaced Persons by ECL

2573. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal depots have been given to the displaced persons of Eastern Coalfield Ltd, (ECL) as compensation:

(b) if so, the total number of coal depots given to the displaced persons during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) whether any irregularities have been noticed in this regard?

(d) if so, whether any inquiry is being conducted into the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) As reported by Coal India

Limited, no Coal depot has been given to the displaced persons of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) as compensation.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Powerloom Service Centre in Andhra Pradesh

2574. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed to the request of Andhra Pradesh Government for sanctioning powerloom service centre;

(b) whether the State Government has prepared a plan for development of powerloom in the State;

(c) whether the new centre proposed to be set up at Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the broad activities of the centres?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes. *ಓಹ*.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to develop powerloom in the state.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India will provide a one-time grant of Rs. 3.00 lakhs for the purchase of machineries and equipments for the centre. The recurring expenditure, including salaries of the staff will be provided by the Powerloom Weavers Association of Andhra Pradesh. The broad activities of the Powerloom Service Centres are as under:-

1. To impart practical training to powerloom weavers.
2. Training in loom working, maintenance etc.
3. Disseminating knowledge, techniques with visits.
4. Guide Powerloom Workers on modernisation.
5. Collect and compile annual statistics on units, looms etc.
6. Guide the Powerloom Weavers in marketing their products.
7. Provide testing facilities to the powerloom industry.
8. Conduct seminars/workshops/exhibitions for the benefit of the powerloom weavers.
9. To co-ordinate with Government.
10. To take up the problems of powerloom weavers to the concerned authorities.
11. To provide technical consultation facility by rendering technical service.
12. To advise and guide powerloom units in design development and diversification of products.

Assurance relating to RRB and Staff

2575. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the assurance relating to Regional Rural Banks and their staff pending before the Parliament detailing the period of such pendency and the reasons for delay; and

(b) the time by which these assurances are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Two Assurances relating to replies given to Parliament Question on Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are pending which are detailed as below:

1. Assurance given in the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 388 dated 22.11.1996 regarding cases of robberies in RRBs. National bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that since the information had to be collected from each of the 196 RRBs, there has been a delay in fulfilling the Assurance. On receipt of complete information for all RRBs an implementation report to fulfil the Assurance will be laid on the Table of the House.
2. Assurance given in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5022 dated 07.05.97 regarding financial irregularities in RRB of Gorakhpur. NABARD has reported that the matter is being re-investigated through a Senior Officer of the Sponsor Bank i.e. State bank of India (SBI). On receipt of necessary information from the sponsor bank, necessary implementation report for fulfillment of the Assurance will be submitted.

Export of Rubber

2576. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union government to export rubber; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the current EXIM Policy, the export of Natural Rubber is under OGL and there is no bar on export of rubber either by Govt. or any private agencies. In respect of the rubber procured under Market Intervention Operation, the Government has already directed the STC to export and/or sell the entire quantity of procured rubber to the Advance Licence Holders.

Impunity/Protection enjoyed by M.Ps.

2577. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: