

[English]

Crisis Among Handloom Weavers due to Huge Stocks

2509. SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge stocks of handloom material is not being lifted, resulting in acute crisis among the poor handloom weavers especially in Tamil Nadu State;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that by announcing the import of Art silk, the situation is being aggravated and the condition of the weavers are becoming very pitiable; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to withdraw the import proposal so that the handloom weavers are safeguarded?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that they have taken various measures to clear the accumulated stock which include grant of rebate, holding of exhibitions for sale, purchase by State Government Departments etc.

(b) and (c) Import of woven fabrics of Artificial filament yarn have been brought under OGL vide notification dated 31.12.1997. It is early to assess the impact of the Policy.

Cheap Interest Rate on Export

2510. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide loans to exporters on cheaper interest rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. Consequent to the reductions of rates on pre-shipment credit on April 29, 1998 the export credit interest rate structure is already reasonably low.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Integrated Tourism Plan for North-Eastern States

2511. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have drawn up an Integrated Tourism Development Plan for the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise including Darjeeling Hill area; and

(c) the amount spent on the development of tourism in the North-Eastern States during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) The Task Force constituted by the Department of Tourism has submitted a report for the development of tourism in the North Eastern States. The report has suggested improvement of infrastructural facilities including accessibility and publicity of tourism products of the region. The said report did not cover Darjeeling Hill area.

(c) The amount of financial assistance released to North Eastern States during each of the last three years is as given below:-

State	Amount Released (Rs. Lakhs)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Arunachal Pradesh	25.50	1.75	82.50
Assam	39.00	32.66	94.20
Manipur	36.28	22.00	56.35
Meghalaya	2.04	32.50	28.05
Mizoram	68.94	40.44	43.50
Nagaland	39.76	70.00	40.58
Tripura	22.67	56.60	40.16

The financial assistance released for projects in Darjeeling during the last three years were:-

Year	Rs. In Lakhs
1995-96	30.72
1996-97	28.75
1997-98	16.50

Research Projects by NISIET, Hyderabad

2512. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Research Projects and training programmes organised by National Institute of Small Industry Extension and Training, Hyderabad in collaboration with the international agencies during 1997-98;

(b) the name of the agencies who provided funds alongwith amount of assistance to NISIET, Hyderabad; and

(c) the details of the project currently going on?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No training programme was conducted by