

[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. RAJAIHAH : 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

NISIET, Hyderabad, in collaboration with International agencies during 1997-98. However, a Research Project on Policy Research for Small Scale Enterprises was conducted during 1997-98.

(b) The above research project was assigned by UNESCO, New Delhi for an amount of US \$ 10,000/-.

(c) The details of project currently going on are:-

(i) Study tour on Food & Agro Processing Rural Development for the ILO delegation from Nigeria during 29th March-4th April, 1998 for an institutional fee of US \$ 4200+Rs.58,000/- arranged by ILO, New Delhi (ILO Office for India and Bhutan).

(ii) Training cum enterprise visit of seven members team of Bankers and officials from Bangladesh during 8-20 June, 1998 sponsored by International Fertilizer Development Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh for a fee of US \$ 10,500.

Massive I.T. Evasion by School

2513. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether searches conducted recently by the Income Tax Department have revealed massive Income Tax evasion by some of the schools in Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the income tax evasion that have come to the light the amount involved and the modus operandi thereof;

(c) whether in some cases some non-resident Indians are also involved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measure taken or proposed to be taken to deter the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Searches were conducted recently at the premises of a school in Western Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Concealment of Rs.4 crores has so far been admitted by a Director of the School. Further investigations are underway for quantifying the exact amount of concealment and establishing the modus operandi involved.

(c) and (d) An N.R.I. is the Chairman of the Society running the school.

(e) The Income-tax Act, 1961 provides for a special procedure for assessment of search cases. The procedure involves making of assessment for a block period of ten assessment years preceding the year of search and assessing the undisclosed income relating to the block period at sixty per cent. Further prosecution proceedings could be initiated in the circumstances prescribed in the Act.

Sick Tea Gardens of Assam

2514. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some tea estates of Assam has fallen sick;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether crores of rupees of the poor workers in the form of gratuity and daily wages are blocked in these tea estates;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to pay the arrears to the workers;

(e) whether the Government propose to revamp these tea estates while selling or leasing of the gardens to any solvent private concern;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government for recovery of the Tea Estate from present sickness?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Land Acquired by ECL

2515. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired by the Eastern Coalfield Ltd. (E.C.L.) after nationalisation of the coal industry;

(b) the number of families displaced as a result thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted to provide compensation and jobs to such families; and

(d) the number of families compensated so far indicating the amount of compensation paid to each family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) After nationalisation of the Coal Industry, the total area of land acquired by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) covering various types of lands works out to 9976.73 hectares.