

from Maharashtra. Subsequently, Reserve Bank of India had advised banks to operationalise more specialised SSI branches at centres where there is potential for financing many SSI borrowers. Till March, 1997, banks have opened 29 specialised SSI branches in the State of Maharashtra.

(e) For tackling the problems of sick SSI units, Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines to scheduled commercial banks in February, 1987 (modified in June, 1989 and April, 1993), containing, inter-alia, definition of sick units, viability norms, incipient sickness as also reliefs/concessions for banks/financial institutions for implementation of packages in case of potentially viable sick (SSI) units. The same are proposed to be continued.

Coir Industry

*151. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Coir Board for export promotion programmes of coir products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Programmes for export promotion of coir and coir products are proposed every year by the Coir Board and considered by the Government.

(b) The programmes include participation in International exhibitions and conferences, organising seminars on specific products, publicity through media abroad, awards for export performance and promotion etc. During the year 1998-99, Coir Board proposes to participate in the following programmes:-

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| 1. India Exhibition
Baku, Azerbaijan | 24-28, June, 1998 |
| 2. Inter Build Australia 98
Melbourne | 19-22, July, 1998 |
| 3. National Hardware
Show, Chicago,
USA | 16-19, August, 1998 |
| 4. Thessaloniki International
Fair, Thessaloniki,
Greece | September, 1998 |
| 5. Caribbean Expo,
Port of Spain, Trinidad | September, 1998 |

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| 6. Saitex-98, Johannesburg
South Africa | 20-24, October, 1998 |
| 7. Domotex, Hannover
Germany | January, 1999. |
| 8. Kuwait International Trade
Fair, Kuwait | February/March,
1999 |
| 9. Carpet Fair/Made in India
Exhibition (To be organised
by Indian Consulate & CII) | Date not specified. |
| 10. Coir Geo Textiles, USA | Date not specified. |
| 11. Coir Geo Textiles, U.K. | Date not specified. |

(c) The Coir Board, which is a statutory body, has taken various measures to boost the export of coir and coir products in the international markets. The Board has undertaken joint publicity programme with British and German Coir Associations for promoting Indian coir products in these countries. In order to increase the export of coir and coir products, the Board participates in important exhibitions abroad, deputed officials in market development missions, and undertakes publicity programmes.

New Textile Policy

*152. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to have a new textile policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the new textile policy is likely to be announced and implemented;

(c) whether there is any plan to allot quota and reserve items for the mills, powerloom and handloom sectors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up an expert group under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam for the purpose of enabling the formulation of a new textile policy. The composition and the terms of references are under finalization.

(c) to (e) There is no plan to allot quota and reserve items for the mills, powerloom and handloom sector except to the extent of existing reservation of 11 items for production under the handloom sector and annual quotas for exports of raw cotton and low count cotton yarn.

[Translation]

Protection to Domestic Industry

*153. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the negative impact of the steep reduction in import tariff on project imports and finished products on the domestic industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering a proposal to bring about a legislation to protect the domestic industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether the Government have received representations from small scale industries in this regard; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (f) There have been representations from the capital goods industry about an adverse impact of reduction in import duty rates. A number of policy initiatives have been proposed in the recent Budget including 8 per cent non-modvatable levy on imports of a wide range of goods.

[English]

L.C. Gupta Committee

*154. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether L.C. Gupta Committee appointed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has finalised and submitted its report on the introduc-

tion of equity based derivatives in the Indian capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which the said derivations are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The L.C. Gupta Committee appointed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to recommend an appropriate regulatory framework for the introduction of derivatives trading in India has submitted its report to SEBI.

(b) The report of the Committee consists of two parts. Parts I of the Report focuses on the economic justification and regulatory structure for the introduction of derivatives trading in India and Part II is the suggested bye-laws for regulation and control of trading and settlement of derivatives contracts. The recommendations include phased introduction of equity derivatives, operation of derivatives exchanges as effective self-regulatory organizations under the overall supervision of SEBI, stringent entry requirements for brokers/dealers for derivatives market, improvements in underlying cash markets etc. Copies of the report are publicly available.

(c) The SEBI Board considered the report of the Committee as its meeting held on May 11, 1998 and accepted most of the recommendations.

(d) SEBI will take an appropriate decision when systemic, institutional and regulatory arrangements for derivatives trading are in place.

Patent of Various Products

*155. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that steps are being taken by the US and other European countries to have various vegetables and other botanical products like Neem, Turmeric and their formulations already in vogue in Ayurveda and other Indian Systems of Medicines patented through the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;