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Handicraft Policy

1661. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to revamp the Handicraft policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the New Handicraft Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The Government is implementing various schemes for the development and promotion of handicrafts in the country. The sub-group on handicrafts for IX Five Year Plan have reviewed the schemes during 1996. Based on its recommendation some existing schemes have been modified and new schemes viz. training for trainers and master craftsmen; member education programme for handicrafts cooperative through National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI); setting up of urban haats; common facility centres for handicrafts have been introduced.

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Maharashtra Cotton Growers

1662. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton growers of Maharashtra are facing acute hardship due to damage of their crops this year;

(b) if so, whether some cotton growers in the State committed suicide in the last week of November, 1998 following widespread damages of their crops;

(c) the details of the procurement price of cotton announced by the Government of Maharashtra under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to intervene in the matter and advise the Government of Maharashtra to revive the procurement price; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Restructuring of Department of SSIs

1663. SHRI RAVI SITARAM-NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a series of measures and policy initiatives for restructuring the Department of Small Scale Industries, to attend the problems faced by the SSIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith progress made, so far;

(c) the details of the measures envisaged to boost the performance of SSIs during the current year and the Ninth Plan period;

(d) whether the Government are aware that SSIs have been affected by the budget allocations for the last few years; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) There is no proposal at present to restructure the Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have been taking measures on a continuous basis for promotion and development of small scale industries in the country. During the Ninth Plan the village and Small Industries Sector has been accorded high priority by providing incentive and support to facilitate their growth and employment. Measures have been taken to provide adequate credit and improve the quality of its delivery to the SSI units. The 1999-2000 Budget has proposed to increase the composite loan limit of Small Industry Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for small scale industrial (SSI) units from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs. The working capital requirement of SSI units having turnover upto Rs. 5 crores would be computed at the rate of 20 per cent of the annual turnover. Banks have been advised by RBI to delegate more powers to branch managers to grant *ad hoc* limits, to simplify application forms, to fix their own norms for assessment of credit

requirement and open more SSI branches. Government also proposes to launch a new credit insurance scheme for the small scale sector to take care of the inability of the SSI units to provide adequate security.

The SSI units are also being provided infrastructure support in an integrated manner through the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme launched since 1994. Other measures to support SSI units include enhanced technology support for modernisation and quality upgradation and for acquiring ISO-9000 certification.

(d) and (e) Though there are budgetary constraints, the need of the small scale sector has been kept in view while making budget allocations. However, higher allocations would have helped to strengthen and provide better support for the promotional efforts being made for the small sector.

Coal
Payment of Royalty

1664. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited is paying royalty through their companies to the concerning State Governments;

(b) if so, the amount of royalty paid during 1997-98 and 1998-99 company-wise;

(c) whether there is a continuous demand from the concerned Members of Parliament of Coal belt area that at least 50 per cent amount of royalty amount paid by Coal India to the concerned State Governments be made available for the development of concerned coal area only;

(d) whether the Government have agreed to put this condition that royalty amount should be used in surrounding area of coal belt; and

(e) if so, the guidelines issued/being issued to the concerned State Governments in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Royalty is remitted by the subsidiary coal companies.

(b) The amount of royalty paid during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto December, 98), company-wise are,

as under:

Coal Company	1997-98	1998-99 (upto Dec.'98) Prov.
ECL	81.07	47.11
BCCL	308.70	180.21
CCL	288.11	144.84
MCL	237.42	160.85
NCL	314.35	199.12
SECL	402.45	311.93
WCL	253.97	173.37
NEC	6.13	3.93
Total	1892.20	1221.36

(c) to (e) Royalty on coal is a source of revenue for the State Government. The proceeds from royalty is credited to the Consolidated Fund of the State Government and any appropriation from such fund can be authorised by the State Legislature. Therefore any amount to be spent by the State Governments from the proceeds of royalty on coal in the affected area depends on the decision of the State Government and the State Legislature. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 Provides for payment of royalty by the lessee to the lessor State Government but does not prescribe the manner of utilisation of the royalty proceeds. The Central Government, therefore, have no authority to intervene in this matter.

[Translation]

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Rates of Royalty on Coal

1665. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUJ
BISEN :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments, particularly Governments of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have