

schemes, timeframe for introduction of VAT and reduction of Central Sales Tax; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Sir, the Committee held a meeting on 10.1.1999 wherein it resolved as follows:—

- (i) Floor rates of States Sales-tax be implemented by all States and Union Territories from an early date through such modalities as may be agreed upon by the Chief Ministers.
- (ii) A meeting of the Finance Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories may be convened to arrive at a uniform approach in respect of abolition/phasing out of sales tax related incentives.
- (iii) A meeting of all the Chief Ministers may be convened to discuss the strategy of implementing recommendations relating to Central Sales Tax.
- (iv) The States may go ahead with preparatory steps such as computerisation, training programme and public awareness in respect of VAT.

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

1669. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of income earned from export of textiles during each of the last three years;
- (b) its percentage out of the total export income in the country during the above period, year-wise;
- (c) whether the export percentage in the textiles sector is gradually sliding;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to promote export of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The details of export of textiles during the last three years, its percentage share in the total exports of the country have been as follows:

Year	Value in Million US\$	%share in total exports
1995-96	10,685.07	33.6%
1996-97	11,839.13	35.8%
1997-98	12,389.91 (Prov.)	36.5%

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to encourage the export of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production, etc.

[English]

Hemco Group of Companies, Bombay

1670. SHRI K.S. RAO :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Videshi saakhpatra ke zariye 950 crore rupaye ke dhokhadhari ka bhandaphor" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 18, 1999;
- (b) if so, whether the Hemco Group of companies of Bombay have defrauded the exchequer to the tune of Rs. 950 crore; and
- (c) if so, the full facts thereof and the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Preliminary investigations have revealed that during the years 1995-96 to 1997-98, Hamco Group of Companies, Mumbai remitted foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 644 crores through Letters of Credit, without corresponding import of goods. As a corrective action, Reserve Bank of India has issued directions under section 73(3) of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to the banks concerned, prohibiting any withdrawals, including outward remittances from the accounts of the said Group Companies and any lien on the balance lying in the same. The banks have also been advised not to open further letters of credit (LC) and/or seek confirmation of LCs already opened in respect of the said Companies.

Loans & Advances 323-22
Loans under PMRY

1671. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SCs/STs amongst the total entrepreneurs of the country, State-wise particularly in Uttar Pradesh who have been provided loans under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the extent to which it is lower than the target fixed for this purpose; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) A Statement showing State/Union Territory-wise disbursements under PMRY to SCs/STs beneficiaries during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is annexed.

(b) and (c) The number of cases disbursed under these categories as a percentage to total disbursements during the last three years against prescribed reservation of 22.5% was as under:—

Year	All India SC/ST	Uttar Pradesh SC/ST
1995-96	15.2%	16.5%
1996-97	12.7%	11.2%
1997-98	13.6%	15.3%

The shortfall in achievements is attributed to the reasons that Government agencies did not receive/sponsor enough number of applications from persons belonging to these categories and also that persons belonging to these categories show preference for secured jobs in Government/Public Sector Undertakings with a fixed income instead of taking up self-employment ventures.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries under the Scheme of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

Name of the State/ Union Territories	Loan disbursed to SC/ST (No.)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	3048	1737	2636
Arunachal Pradesh	48	267	18