

Import of Gold

5411. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJIHARPUR):

SHRI SITARAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have enhanced the customs duty for 1998-99 on import of gold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact of such enhancement on the import of gold in the country;

(d) whether the Government are reconsidering to bring the customs duty at par with the previous years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government have enhanced Customs duty on import of gold from Rs. 220 per 10 gms. to Rs. 250 per 10 gms. vide Notification No. 28/98-Customs dated 2/6/98.

(c) to (e) It is unlikely that this enhancement would have any major impact on the import of gold. There is no proposal before the Government for reconsideration of this duty increase.

[Translation]

Financial Crisis in Handloom Industry

5412. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handloom industry is facing financing crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons engaged in this industry have committed suicide due to financial crisis; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) NABARD under its concessional refinance scheme provides credit to the eligible handloom agencies to meet their working capital requirement. According to the information received from NABARD, the level of credit limit sanctioned has gone up from Rs. 492.37 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 743.18 crores in 1997-98. Besides, the Government has been providing financial assistance to the eligible handloom agencies under various ongoing schemes for development of handloom sector and welfare of the weavers. The financial assistance provided under various schemes to the eligible handloom agencies during 1992-93 to 1997-98 is Rs. 1086.91 crores.

(c) No such report has been received from State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Development/Welfare Schemes for Tripura

5413. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tripura has sought financial assistance/approval of Central Government for Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme, H.D.C./QDU proposal for release of subsequent instalments against the eligible Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Units, Jute project, Margin money for below poverty line weavers, Marketing Development Assistance for Primary Weavers Coop. Societies, Construction of Marketing Complex, submitted during 1996-98, and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The Government of India is providing Central assistance to various State Governments including Government of Tripura under various Handloom Schemes. Formulation and submission of project proposals by the State Governments and the sanctions thereto by the Government of India is a continuous process. Based on the viable proposals received from Government of Tripura, Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 139 lakhs was provided during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98. The State Govt. has been advised to reformulate and resubmit such project proposals which have not been found to be viable or did not conform to the guidelines of the scheme.

Development of Coffee and Tobacco

5414. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes and programmes formulated and the places identified/selected by the Coffee Board for development of coffee plantations and development of Tobacco cultivation by Tobacco Board in Orissa so far;

(b) the funds provided for these schemes for research and development alongwith extension so far;

(c) whether some private agencies have been given lease by the Government of Orissa for cultivation of Coffee and Tobacco in recent years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The Coffee Board has identified about 11,000 ha. of area in Koraput, Ganjam, Phulbani and Keonjhar Districts of Orissa for coffee cultivation, out of which an area of 1600 ha. has already been brought under coffee cultivation.

During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Coffee Board has been implementing a Special Package Scheme for coffee