

(b) South India Textile Research Association have, in a research project being implemented under UNDP assistance, achieved a breakthrough in producing yarn of reasonably satisfactory quality in count range is to 10s from 100%, pineapple leaf fibre in a modified cotton spinning system. SITRA has also spun blends of pineapple leaf fibre with sisal, jute and wool in the long staple, jute and worsted spinning systems.

(c) Government is pleased with the results of the project so far and is hopeful that SITRA would succeed in bringing down cost of extraction of pineapple leaf fibre to competitive levels, so that it could be used by the textile industry.

[Translation]

Scarcity of Water in Maharashtra and Rajasthan

*403 SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra and Rajasthan are likely to face acute shortage of water for irrigation purposes during 1990; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Taking over of Central Research Institute for Yoga

*404. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to take over the Central Research Institute for Yoga as reported in the Times of India dated 12 June, 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons for the take over; and

(c) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (c) Government have received a number of complaints alleging irregularities in the utilisation of funds and management of affairs of the Central Research Institute for Yoga (CRIY) by its present Director. The members of Yoga Employees Association have also been agitating against the functioning of the Director in an arbitrary manner. The employees have not been paid their salaries since January, 1990. They have also expressed apprehension that if funds are released to the present Director, he would divert these to other purposes.

The Director, CRIY, was requested to call a meeting of the Governing Body for sorting out all these. But he has not cooperated. In the circumstances, Government are actively considering a proposal for taking over the management of this Institute. A definite date cannot be indicated in this matter.

Controlled Cloth for Public Distribution System

*405. SHRI NANDIAL MEENA. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing controlled cloth for the poor/weaker sections of the society through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the quantity of different varieties of controlled cloth given for distribution through PDS to Rajasthan during the last three years;

(c) whether the quantity supplied has been found to be sufficient to meet the demand;

(d) if not, the steps taken to increase the quantity;

(e) whether Government propose to add some more varieties of cloth under PDS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The controlled cloth produced by National Textile Corporation mills is distributed through Public Distribution System, in addition to other channels.

(b) The Quantity of controlled cloth despatched by NTC to agencies involved with distribution in Rajasthan during the years 1987-88 to 1989-90 is given below:—

Year	Quantity Cotton Varieties (lac. sq. mtrs.)	despatched Polyester cotton varieties (lac mtrs.)
1987-88	69.04	2.57
1988-89	66.03	3.19
1989-90	38.86	3.38

(c) and (d) Government have not received any report about shortage of supply of controlled cloth in Rajasthan.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to add more varieties of cloth under the Public Distribution System. The controlled cloth produced by NTC mills and Janata cloth produced by Handloom Sector, distributed through Public Distribution System, meet part of the demand of poorer sections of the society.

Modernisation of Jute Industry

*406. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rupees 150 crores Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme has not so far made any impact in the ongoing modernisation programme in the jute mill industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to implement the modernisation package designed to improve productivity and quality from the raw jute batching stage to the final product?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It is not correct to state that the scheme has not made any impact in the ongoing Modernisation Programme in the jute mill industry. As on 31st July, 1990, out of 37 applications received by Financial Institutions sanction of loan has been made in respect of 19 cases totalling Rs. 72.64 crore. The disbursement till this date is around Rs. 18 crore. It is no doubt a fact that good and healthy units are taking advantage of the scheme while majority of the mills which are weak but potentially viable have not availed of benefit under the scheme. Some of the factors responsible for slow progress of the scheme are:

- (i) Time taken by units to decide about choice of technology in the weaving sections of the mills.
- (ii) Time required to complete the BIFR proceedings relating to some jute mills whose case had been initially approved by the Financial Institutions.
- (iii) Even after submission of the applications and sanction of the loans, some of the managements do not actively pursue their cases with the