

Income-tax Offices depends upon several factors taken together like (i) number of assessments available, (ii) budget collections, (iii) economic viability, (iv) administrative convenience, and (v) convenience of tax-paying public.

Export to U.S.A.

*700. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian exports to United States of America have decreased in the recent past while exports to USA from the developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America have increased considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase Indian exports to USA.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

The Indian exports to the U.S.A. have increased during the period 1981-84.

According to the Statistics published by the US Commerce Department imports from Asia and Latin America also increased during the years 1980-83 whereas from Africa they declined.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Continuous steps are being taken to promote Indian exports to U.S.A. like exchange of delegations, participation in Fairs/Exhibitions, organising Buyer-Seller Meets, sponsoring of Sales-cum-study Teams and holding negotiations both at Governmental and non-Governmental levels with a view to removing constraints impeding the growth of Indo-US Trade.

Restrictions on Powerlooms

*701. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have imposed several restrictions on powerlooms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that due to restrictions on powerlooms, the large

textile mills are taking undue advantage over the powerlooms;

(d) whether Government propose to remove the restrictions on the powerlooms; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Acquisition, installation sale or disposal of powerlooms can be undertaken only with prior permission of Textile Commissioner Powerlooms may not undertake production of fabrics exclusively reserved for production in the handloom sector. These restrictions apply equally to the powerlooms in the decentralised and the organised mill sector.

(c) No, Sir. Production figures over the last 4 years indicate that production of cloth by powerlooms has increased whereas production by the mill sector has languished.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) It is essential that adequate protection is provided to the handloom sector and a balanced and disciplined growth takes place in the power operated sector the powerlooms and mill.

[Translation]

Gold Prices

*702. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :
SHRI R. M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of gold are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the annual proportionate increase in the prices of gold during the past three years;

(c) whether Government are taking any concrete steps to control gold prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The annual average price of standard gold increased in the Bombay market by 0.2 per cent in 1982-83, 7.9 per cent in 1983-84 and 6.7 per cent in 1984-85.