

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.

(c) and (d). Gold is not an essential commodity and the Government does not propose to control its price.

[English]

Quotas Allotted to Garment Exporters

*703. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SUPPLIES AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have directed the garment exporters to strictly follow quotas allotted to them and warned them that attempts on the contrary could force importing countries to be more restrictive;

(b) whether the exporters have been urged to concentrate on non-quota countries and non-quota products; and

(c) if so, how many exporters have agreed to the suggestions made by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Entitlements for export of garments to countries with which India has bilateral agreements are allotted to various exporters in accordance with the Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for garments and knit-wear announced by the Government from year to year. Under this Policy, exporters can export garments only upto the entitlements allotted to them,

(b) and (c). Government encourages exports of garments to non-quota countries as also of non-quota products. There has been considerable growth in such exports over the years.

Production of Silk

*704. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the types of silk produced in India;

(b) the total area in the country utilised for silk production;

(c) whether any intensive cultivation plan is being carried out in our country to produce more silk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The types of silk produced in India are mulberry, tasar, eri and muga.

(b) The total area being utilised for silk production in the country is about 7.72 lakh hectares.

(c) and (d). For increasing production of raw silk in the country, Central Silk Board has been implementing special development projects and also central projects for supplementing the States' efforts in this regard. The major intensive Sericulture development projects are:

(i) A project for intensive sericulture development in Karnataka with World Bank Assistance.

(ii) Inter-State Tasar Project.

(iii) Muga Seed Development Project.

Gold Mines located in Orissa

*705. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether gold mines have been located in some parts of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether their quality and quantity have been examined and assessed;

(c) the steps taken for their exploitation; and

(d) the names of the places and districts where the gold mines have been located and steps for production of the areas to check in illegal and unauthorised processing thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Supply of Coal to West Bengal State Electricity Board

*706 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any intimation from Government of West Bengal that due to poor quality of coal supply and also