

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy in regard to modernisation of handlooms is paraiseworthy, but since this policy came into force as recently as October, 1986, we cannot expect quick results. I would like to point out that all such policies of the Government fall prey to the procedural wrangles and do not make any headway I would like to know whether certain clear-cut directives have been issued to save the handloom weavers from the Clerks and Officers? If the Government do it, they would no longer be required to take rounds of the offices. What steps the Government are taking in this regard in the near future?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, our orders have reached the State Governments and the State Governments in turn have taken action on these orders and instructions. For this purpose, we have been contacting the state officials from time to time and prominent handloom institutes in the cooperative sector have also been associated with the planning process. Besides, the Sub-Committee constituted by the All India Handicrafts Handloom Board for modernisation consists of Government officials and 3 non-officials. We are giving publicity in the newspapers in regard to the facilities we are giving to the weavers. I would like to tell the Hon. Member that we are Conscious of our responsibility and we shall ensure that the benefits of this scheme reach the weavers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Statehood to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*531. **SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI :**
SHRI PRATAP RAO

B. BHOSALE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision about grant of statehood to the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

[English]

Export of marine products

*537. **SHRI T. BALA GOUD :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the projected increase in foreign exchange earnings from marine products over the next three years;

(b) the projected quantity of shrimp to be exported over the next three years, including 1987;

(c) the quantity exported during last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken to promote export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) The projection of export earnings for 1989-90 made by Planning Commission at 1984-85 prices is Rs. 446 crores.

(b) The projected quantity of shrimp to be exported over the next three years are :

1987-88 — 51500 tonnes

1988-89 — 53000 tonnes

1989-90 — 55000 tonnes

(c) The quantity of shrimp exported during the last two years were :

1985-86 — 50349 tonnes

1985-86 — 39753 tonnes

(April'85 to January'86)

1986-87 — 41688 tonnes

(April'86 to January'87)

(Source : Marine Products Export Development Authority)

(d) Steps being taken to promote export of marine products include promotion of prawn farming for augmenting production of cultured prawns, encouragement of production of value-added items like IQF (Individually Quick Frozen Shrimps), setting up of prawn hatcheries and measures for exploitation of deep sea fishery resources.

[Translation]

Setting up of defence production factories in backward areas

*539. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up new factories for defence production in protected/reserved backward areas of the country; and

(b) if so, some details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). Decision on location of new factories for Defence Production is taken by Government based on strategic and techno-economic considerations, when need arises.

[English]

Indian nationals in Pakistani jails

*543. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian nationals who have been in Pakistani jails since long without any trial;

(b) whether cases were taken up with the Pakistan Government for their release from jails; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) It is estimated that there are 703 Indian nationals including under trials in Pakistani prisons convicted and those who have completed their sentences.

(b) and (c). Constant efforts are being made to repatriate all Indian prisoners from Pakistan. The Pakistan Government has been requested to release all Indian detainees particularly those who have completed their sentences. On the 28th January this year, seven Indian prisoners were repatriated to India from Pakistan.

Loss of foreign exchange from export clearance of tea

*544. SHRI R. P. DAS : SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tea Board has recently issued clearance certificates for the tea export involving loss of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the justification for such export and clearance; and

(c) if the export was allowed without sufficient justification, the action taken against those who have been held responsible for this loss to the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Tea Board does not issue clearance certificates for tea exports.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Detention of Indian fishing vessels by Pakistan

*545. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Indian Express dated 12 March, 1987 wherein it has been stated that eleven Indian fishing