

for facilitation of modernisation of cotton textile industry.

- (iii) Revised rates of CCS have been announced effective from 1st July, 1986. These rates have been announced for a period of 3 years and are generally higher than before.
- (iv) Textiles have been brought under the scheme of Contract Registration with a view to providing an element of certainty to exporters in the matter of CCS.
- (v) The number of days of pre-shipment credit has been increased from 90 days to 180 days. The rate of interest has also been reduced by 2.5%.
- (vi) Many items of raw material/fabrics are permitted to be imported under Duty Free REP Schemes and the Import-Export Pass Book Scheme.
- (vii) Under 100% Export Oriented Units and Free Trade Zones Scheme, facilities for liberal import of capital goods and raw materials alongwith many other concessions are given.
- (viii) Government has been giving liberal assistance for sponsoring and funding promotional activities such as market studies, buyer-seller meets, participation in International fairs and exhibitions.
- (ix) The Government permits import of 4 sophisticated textile machines at a concessional rate of 25% provided the importer exported 5 times the value of the machinery over and above the average exports of the exporter during the preceding 3 years. In addition to the existing scheme, the modified export obligation

scheme permits imports with an export obligation for exporting 75% of the production for 5 years. However, the importer is allowed to choose any one of the two export obligations.

[English]

Representation for increase in quota of Haj Pilgrims

*276. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for increasing the yearly quota of Haj Pilgrims;

(b) whether Government have also been requested to take up the matter with Saudi Arabia Government to extend more facilities to the Indian Muslims going on Haj pilgrimage;

(c) whether Government have requested Saudi Arabia Government to abolish Airport taxes for pilgrims; and

(d) if so, the reaction of that Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of engineering goods

*277. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether causes for poor performance of export of engineering goods have been identified

(b) to what extent the large industrial

houses are held responsible in this regard; and

(c) whether any action is contemplated against such industrial houses as are responsible for poor performance of export of engineering goods?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export performance of some large industrial houses has not been commensurate with their potential

(c) The Government Policy is to provide the necessary environment for encouraging engineering exports. In this context, series of measures have been taken which, *inter alia*, include liberalisation of licensing for export production, provision of fiscal and export incentives, provision of credit and improved access to inputs at international prices. These measures are designed to encourage export by the engineering industry including large industrial houses. Detailed interaction with industry organisations and individual companies is being held on a continuing basis to encourage large companies to export.

Import of viscose fibre for blending with cotton

*278. SHRI D.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to import Viscose fibre for blending with cotton;

(b) if so, what will be its impact on the price of cotton yarn in the country; and

(c) whether the weavers section will be economically affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The import of Viscose Staple Fibre continues to be on OGL. Government has not taken any final decision for special import of Viscose Staple Fibre for blending with cotton.

(b) and (c). It is felt that the availability of viscose staple fibre for mixing with cotton could increase total availability of cotton yarn and reduce the upward trend of prices of cotton yarn, thus benefiting weavers.

Promotion of Tourism in Kerala

*279. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by Union Government in Kerala for promotion of tourism during the last two years;

(b) the details of the work undertaken and completed; and

(c) the plan for next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Details of financial assistance given by the Union Government for promotion of tourism in Kerala, during the last two years, are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl No	Name of Scheme	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Current status
1	2	3	4	5
1985-86				
1	Wayside facilities at Alleppey	10.28	4.00	Civil works completed
2	Wayside facilities at Kottarakkara	10.25	4.00	