

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Loss due to expiry date of Drugs

*821. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Medical Stores Depot, Madras has suffered any loss due to time expired medicines during the last three years;

(b) if so, the item-wise and year-wise loss suffered;

(c) whether the time expired medicines were also supplied to hospitals and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether such medicines were replaced and if so, the loss suffered on this account, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Life expired medicines were not supplied to any hospital by the Government Medical Store Depot, Madras.

(d) Obtaining replacement from the manufacturers free of cost is a continuous process and no loss occurs to the Government on this account.

Handloom Industry in Kerala

*822. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU:
SHRI V.S. VIJAYAR-
AGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the problems of the handloom industry in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance proposed to be provided to the handloom industry in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):

(a) and (b). The main problems which have been confronting the handloom industry in Kerala as in other States are rise in prices of hank yarn and the inability of the handloom sector to market its products due to competition from the powerloom sector.

(i) Government have taken a number of steps to ensure adequate supplies of yarn to the handloom sector at reasonable prices such as the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme, Loan assistance to the National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up of Weavers' Cooperative Spinning Mills and expansion of capacity in the existing mills to build up captive production for the handloom sector, setting up of the National Handloom Development Corporation with the main aim of supplying yarn to the handloom sector. In order to safeguard the interests of the decentralised sector, certain corrective measures have also been taken to check the recent rising trend in yarn prices:-

(1) Import of cotton against export of cotton yarn on duty free REP/Advance Licence basis has been permitted.

(2) The export of hank yarn in count groups 1 to 60s is not being allowed.

(3) Import of one lakh bale of medium/long staple cotton,