

In 1985-86, exports were Rs. 124.49 crores and imports were Rs. 420.79 crores. In 1986-87, up to December exports were Rs. 110.93 crores and imports were Rs. 311.44 crores. That is the precise position. As regards the quantum of each specific item, it will take much time. I will definitely supply the detailed information to the hon. Member.

**SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :** Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Australian Government is willing to import locomotive ancillaries and heavy earth movers from our country. May I know from the hon. Minister what action have they taken to export these locomotive ancillaries to Australia ?

**SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI :** Sir, it is a fact that Australians are very interested so far as our engineering goods and heavy machinery are concerned. We have made very good efforts after the last meeting of the joint Trade Committee between India and Australia which was held in November, that is, the tenth meeting, and I would like to inform the House that for the first time in the history, India has entered into Australian automobile market by their booking 1,000 jeeps from Mahendra and Mahendra. Further possibilities are now being explored in many other areas. The hon. Member must also be aware that BHEL—Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited—is also now about to complete a programme to enter into South Australia. Their programme is to electrify the railway system in Victoria and to go there with 250 MW power boiler programme. So, these are the areas we have started and we are getting the response.

**PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** Sir, the Australian market has, more or less, been ignored hitherto, but I am happy that the Government is making some efforts to improve our trade with Australia. From the figure mentioned by the hon. Minister, it is found that the balance of trade is now in their favour and we are importing more. I am sure, there are more items which we can export and turn the balance of trade in our favour. For example, he has not mentioned about the marine products. I understand that there is a demand in Australia

for shrimps and other marine products. There are other items also. So, I would like to know what specific steps have they taken to improve the exports to Australia and turn the balance of trade in our favour.

**SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI :** Sir, our policy is to increase the exports to meet the balance of trade and not to cut imports where it is necessary. But as the hon. Member has stated about the marine products and certain other areas, we have already taken steps and measures through our concerned agencies to see that in these areas the exports go up. The only problem I would like to mention to the hon. Member is that very recently the Australian Government came out with a new scheme of five per cent less than the general tariff concession to the developing nations. This is helping us in certain sectors but not helping us in some other sectors, where the margin was fifteen per cent. We have very recently taken up this matter with the Australian Government. Positively we will get some result and will further boost up the exports in that sector.

#### Target for Improvement of Per Capita Use of Cloth

\*619. **SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target has been fixed to improve the per capita use of cloth in the country during the Seventh Plan period ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) to what extent this target is going to be met by the textiles mills, power looms, handloom sector separately ;

(d) whether the progress is being monitored closely and if so, what was the achievement of each of three sectors so far ; and

(e) whether at the present rate of achievement, the target can be fulfilled by 1989 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) to (e) A Statement is given below.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) The target for cloth production has been fixed at 14,500 million meters at the end of VII Plan period. This will in turn, improve the per capita consumption of cloth to 15.14 meters.

(c) The above target for cloth production is divided sectorwise as follows :

(In Million Mts)	
Sector	Target of cloth production
Mill	4500
Handloom	4600
Powerloom	5400
	14500

(d) The progress in cloth production is closely monitored by the Government. The cloth production sectorwise during the first two years of the plan period i.e. 1985-86 and 1986-87 is as under :

(In Million Meters)			
Sectors	1985-86	1986-87 (Expected Prodn)	1989-90 Targets
Mill	3376	3303	4500
Handloom	3236	3325	4600
Powerloom	5886	6149	5400
Total	12498	12777	14500

(e) From the present trend in production of cloth, it is expected that the overall target of 14500 million metres of cloth production will be achieved during the terminal year (1989-90) of the Seventh Plan period.

[Translation]

**SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the measures adopted by the Government to improve the *per capita* consumption of cloth in the country during the Seventh Plan period ?

Will the Government in order to protect this industry reduce the excise duty so that the production of cloth can be maximised and this industry can be run properly and the workers are also benefited ? Do Government propose to take any such step?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** It is estimated that by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, 14500 million metres of cloth will be produced and the production has been increasing in the last few years. Out of 14500 million metres, 4500 million metres cloth will be manufactured in the mills, 4600 million metres in the handloom sector and 5400 million metres in the power-loom sector and on the basis of this production *per capita* availability of cloth will be 15-14 metres by the end of the Seventh Plan.

The hon. Minister has asked about the steps which the Government have taken to promote the textile industry. The most significant step was taken in June 1985, when the New Textile Policy was announced. In it, several measures have been envisaged by which production of cloth will increase and the cloth will be available at reasonable rates to the people. There are several measures in the policy and I think that the production of cloth is increasing on the basis of this policy and *per capita* availability is also going on increasing in our country.

[English]

**PROF. N. G. RANGA :** He has asked about the equal reduction of excise duty.

[Translation]

**MR. SPEAKER :** You may ask a supplementary question.

**SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a decline in *per capita* consumption of cotton cloth. Synthetic cloth lasts longer than cotton cloth and the requirement of cotton cloth has come down with the result that many cotton mills are either closing down or running at a low capacity in Maharashtra and in other parts of the country. The problem of unemployment is increasing as a result of closure of these mills and if 90,

may I know the steps being taken by Government to solve this problem ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that several mills are becoming sick and there are many reasons for that. One of the main reasons is that these mills have not been modernised for the last many years and the millowners have established other industries with the profits earned from these mills and have not paid any attention to these mills which has resulted in the present situation.

I have mentioned about the New Textile Policy of 1985 under which it has been envisaged in definite terms that it is not possible to run all the mills after modernising them and therefore some mills, which have reached a stage which is beyond improvement, will have to be closed down. The Central Government has made a provision of Rs. 750 crores in the Seventh Plan for modernisation. We have formulated a plan along with the financial institutions in our country and set up an institution to review the reports and to decide which of the sick mills can be revived and or is in a position to return the loan by providing funds out of the fund of Rs. 750 crores. Hence, it does not seem to be possible to revive all the sick mills but those mills where improvement can be brought about, will receive our special attention.

[*English*]

**PROF. N.G. RANGA:** There is so much more unemployment among the handloom weavers. My hon. friend has concentrated only on that sector which is organised. What is it that Government proposes to do in order to help the handloom weavers ? And, in regard to the excise duty also question was put and answer was not given. Is excise duty going to be reduced or not ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** I will first answer about the excise duty. It was again a part of the new textile policy of 1985—that gradually fiscal levies on textile items and particularly the synthetics will be reduced so that consumption increases. In pursuance of that policy last year there was reduction. But this year there has been

some reduction and some rationalisation and some increases also. So, to what extent to increase the excise duty is an exercise that has to be gone through every year in consultation with the Finance Ministry. For example, if you reduce the excise duty beyond a certain point for synthetic fabrics, we have to see what effect it will have on cotton which is a very important item for us.

So, merely to say that by the reduction of excise duty the problem will be solved is not true. We are seeing where to increase, where to rationalise, where to decrease and I can assure the hon. Member that the interests of the handloom weavers are very much before us and the handloom sector even now today is playing a very important role. It produces much more than the mill sector and policy is that we will continue to do so. So, handloom sector is a very important sector, millions of people in our country are depending on it and we have evolved a large number of schemes for handloom service centres, marketing surveys, subsidies for marketing the produce, opening of new outlets and making yarn available at reasonable prices and all these things we are doing. I can assure the House, particularly the hon. Member who is very much the supporter of the handloom, as we all do on our side, that the interests of the handloom weavers will always be paramount in our country.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Sir, the figure for handloom cloth given for 1985-86 is 3236 million metres. The target for 1989-90 is 4600 million metres. Is the Government aware of the defective method of accounting in respect of the handloom cloth ? The fact on the field is that production of handloom cloth has been progressively declining while the production in the mill sector has been progressively increasing. But that does not reflect in the figures and this discrepancy is on account of defective accounting. Is the Government aware of it ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Sir, the figures which I have given show that the production in handloom sector is increasing. But still to study the whole situation, we are conducting a very comprehensive census of the handloom sector and I think no other

sector has had such a detailed socio-economic survey of the whole handloom industry, the type of looms that they use, how many people work on them, what is their daily production so that we have actual figures of production as well as the people engaged on them. So, the figures that are before us show that there is an increasing trend. But the real situation can only be ascertained after the handloom census is over.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN :** The hon. Minister has stated that the handloom sector is very important but he has not stated what is being done for its protection. The viscous fibre is supplied by big industrialists and capitalists at black market rates which the handloom weavers cannot afford to pay. Consequently, thousands and lakhs of handloom weavers have been rendered jobless. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any action has been taken to control the prices of this fibre and also to protect the handloom weavers from the big capitalists who are supplying this fibre at black market rates and if so, the details thereof ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** There is no shortage of yarn at present and several measures have been adopted to see that yarn is available in time and at fair prices. A National Handloom Development Corporation has been set up and its main aim is to provide yarn at reasonable rates to the handloom sector. Along with it, there are several mills which are in the cooperative sector and fortunately there is a large sector in which many mills are run by cooperatives themselves. These might be called weavers' mills. Apart from this, those who are in the handloom sector get yarn from the cooperative mills and also from the Handloom Corporation.

[*English*]

**SHRI G.L. DOGRA :** Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the present textile price policy has hit hard the consumers of the coarse cloth and that the people who are below the poverty line have also been hit very hard. Even the handloom weavers, as

has been pointed out by Prof. Ranga, have been hit hard. They say that as usual they are not able to use it. What have the producers of the coarse cloth both in the handloom sector and the mill sector done for this? Do they propose to revive the *kanoon*?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Sir, it is not correct to say that the price of coarse cloth has risen very high or the price of even the yarn has risen high. Sir, I have before me a statement which says that from June 1985 to December 1986 in respect of cotton long cloth of medium variety there is a rise of only 3.8 per cent. Shirting and poplins of medium category 7.9 per cent in a year and a half, and dhotis etc. are down 0.3 per cent. So, it is not correct to say that. There may be a local spurt in the price, but on the whole the prices are satisfactory.

**Excise Duty Evasion by Ayurvedic  
Pharmaceutical Units in Delhi**

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\*620. **SHRI M. RAGHUMA  
REDDY :**

**SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ayurvedic pharmaceutical units manufacturing drugs with alcoholic content or effect in Delhi ;

(b) whether some of these units have been evading excise duty by not showing actual production ; and

(c) if so, the action taken against these defaulting companies ?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(S. BUTA SINGH) :** (a) 14 units.

(b) Yes Sir. One case of excise duty evasion was detected.

(c) Penalty in accordance with the relevant Act/Rules was imposed besides recovery of the excise duty.

**SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :** Sir, there are nearly 40 factories manufacturing this Mritasanjeevini, Mahadrakshasevam