

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Delhi is the capital of the country and we all have a relationship with it. Last year an epidemic had struck the trans-Yamuna areas of the city taking the lives of thousands of people. For a city with a population of 80 lakhs, there are just 18,000 hospital beds. This comes to 2.2 beds per thousand persons. Thousands of people come to Delhi everyday. The overall situation is very alarming. There are no proper drainage facilities in slums and jhuggi-jhonpri areas. Some parts of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are to be included in the National Capital Region Plan. Considering the prevailing situation, is the Government planning to provide necessary medical facilities?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, the hon. Member described the situation in Delhi. I want to say that the Government—and when I say Government it is not my Ministry alone but the Delhi Administration and the N.D.M.C. also—has always made efforts to provide health care facilities to people living in slums and far-flung colonies of Delhi. On 18 February, 1989 a fleet of 20 mobile dispensaries was launched by the Delhi Administration for J.J. colonies in particular. This fleet consists of 60 teams each composed of a medical officer, a nurse, a pharmacist and an attendant. These teams visit different colonies on the days fixed for each to provide medical facilities to the local public.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: The hon. Minister said that there are only 76 hospitals including those under Delhi Administration, Municipal Corporation and the Union Government. Apart from these, 11 new hospitals are proposed to be constructed in different parts of Delhi. This will give us an additional 2300 beds over the 18,000 beds already available with us. Despite all this the situation is alarming. Ordinary medicines do not have an impact because the population of Delhi is already very high and there is a continuous influx of people from elsewhere. The circumstances in Delhi being special, the three wings of administration—Delhi Administration, Municipal Corporation and

the Central Government should set up a centralised authority for the management of all Delhi hospitals. As Delhi is the capital of the country there should be a sound system to deal with health problems. Recently an epidemic struck a part of Delhi. This scared away intending visitors to Delhi, even those whose visit was necessary. So special arrangements should be made in case of Delhi. Will the hon. Minister consider setting up an authority to solve this problem?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: I fully understand the hon. Member's concern over the state of Delhi hospitals. He said that if the Government is unable to improve the conditions of hospitals in the capital, what of hospitals in other parts of the country. He has also said that a joint authority should be set up for the management of all hospitals. For your information, I would like to tell you that some time back we received a communication from the Home Ministry asking us to delay taking a final decision until they received the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. Your other suggestions are also most welcome. We expect hon. Members to keep giving us suggestions on how to bring about improvements in facilities provided by hospitals in the capital and the sort of steps to be taken for their effective management and control.

[*English*]

Handloom and Handicraft Exports from Rajasthan

*743. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of handloom and handicraft sectors in the export of textiles during the years 1985 to 1988;

(b) the share of Rajasthan out of the same during each of these years;

(c) whether any special efforts have been made by Union Government to update the design of handloom and handicraft prod-

ucts so that they may attract a better foreign market; and

(d) if so, the number of design institutes set up in Rajasthan so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The provisional exports of handlooms, handicrafts and textiles from 1985 to 1988 have been as under:—

Item	<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>		
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Total Textile exports	2830.36	3276.64	4583.49
<i>of which:</i>			
(a) Handloom products	421.08	391.80	516.19
(b) Handicrafts	503.19	415.47	540.94

Source: Export Promotion Councils.

(b) to (d). State-wise export figures are not maintained. The Government is taking a number of steps to improve the design of handloom and handicraft products in order to improve their marketability. Twenty-three Weavers' Service Centres are already functioning in the country which provide the necessary design and technical inputs for the handloom sector. One Weavers' Service Centre is functioning at Jaipur.

In respect of the handicraft sector, Government has set up four regional design and technical development centres at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Bangalore for evolving new designs, tools and equipments and disseminating the same among artisans. An Institute for hand-printed textiles is functioning at Jaipur which conducts work pertaining to documentation and dissemination of traditional mediums, processes, design technology, etc.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the statement that the progress in the export of handloom

products and handicrafts is not up to the mark. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are proposed to be taken to update the design of these products and thereby increase its production and export?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the submission of the hon. Member that the export of textile has not increased and instead decreased is not true. I have stated in my reply that the total textile exports in 1985-86 was Rs. 2830.36 crores. It increased to Rs. 3276.64 crores in 1986-87 and to Rs. 4583.49 crores in 1987-88. This shows that it has registered a very good progress and the textiles contribute 25 per cent of the total export of our country. The suggestion of the hon. Member is quite good.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: He is asking about the handloom weavers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, re-

garding handloom also, I have stated in my reply that the exports netted Rs. 421.08 crores in 1985-86, Rs. 391.80 crores in 1986-87 and of Rs. 516.19 crores in 1987-88, which is definitely much more than the last few years. This is right that we should take more steps to improve the design of handloom products. We have made provisions for this. Weavers' centres and centres for making new designs for handicrafts are already functioning for the implementation of new schemes and for the development of handloom and handicrafts. These two play an important role. Besides, efforts are being made to explore possibilities of providing yarn at a fair price to the handloom weavers. Concessions have been given for the export of these items and we are trying our best to increase their export.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was regarding the decline in the export of handloom and handicrafts and not about the decline in the export of textiles. In comparison to textile, handloom and handicrafts can prove extremely helpful in solving the problem of unemployment because the investment in this field is very less and it provides employment to more people. Is the Government going to make a special provision in the Eighth Five Year Plan particularly, during this year to encourage handloom and handicrafts so that more people may get employment?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that a large number of people are employed in the field of handicrafts and handlooms. I would rather say that handloom and handicrafts is the second biggest labour intensive sector after agriculture, in our country. Therefore, the Government makes, continuous efforts to encourage them. A number of schemes have been formulated to increase the production, provide marketing facilities and modernise their looms. Efforts have been made to provide maximum assistance to weavers' for constructing working sheds and houses etc. Apart from other schemes, National Handloom Development Corporation has been set up to help them buy yarn at reasonable price.

We want that in the Eighth Plan these schemes should be made even more effective and new schemes should be launched so that we may succeed in fulfilling our aims. As such not many sources of employment are available. Unemployment in our country can not be removed with the help of industrialisation. Ultimately, we will have to encourage handloom and handicrafts only, so that we may promote and encourage employment.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Mr. Speaker Sir, may I know whether any special efforts are being made by the Government to overcome the difficulties which were raised by American experts and American officials in the export of our handloom goods to America? Recently they raised some objection to the borders that we are obliged to take on to our handloom goods. What is the latest position?

Are any special efforts being made to get over that difficulty?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The hon. Member Shri Ranga is always worried about the handloom industry. This morning only, I was discussing with him as to how many schemes are being formulated for the progress of this area. I was doing this to assure him that we are equally concerned and seized of the matter. Regarding the hon. Member's question of overcoming the difficulties in the export of handloom goods to America I welcome his suggestion that even the little bit of stitching of bedsheets which are exported to America, should be done with hand only and no machine should be used. Some difficulties were raised by the American experts and officials two years back. Last year after discussing with them we made them agree that we can use the manually operated machines, but this year again they have raised the same issue. We have sent our officials from here and we are sure that after holding talks with them we would be able to achieve satisfactory results. But we have not

discontinued the export till then and it is continuing. We will consider this later on as to how this will be adjusted. However the present export will not be discontinued. Discussions with the American Government are in progress and we hope that a satisfactory solution will be found.

The American Government has not made such pre-condition with Pakistan but have imposed it for India. We have pointed out this and the matter is under consideration. We hope that the talks will be satisfactory.

SHRI SALAHUDDIN: The Government has opened a number of training centres in different areas in order to encourage the export of handlooms. We have read in the newspaper that a number of sale outlets have been opened in foreign countries to sell the garments manufactured by the weavers of Bhadohi and Mirzapur but the Indian Government has closed the centre at West Germany. Consequently, the weavers have been adversely affected and they are in economic distress. They have already manufactured the garments as per the directions of these centres and now it will be very difficult for them to sell these clothes. They will be simply ruined. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to ensure the interests of the weavers and to re-open the Centre in West Germany.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I think the hon. Member is perhaps pointing to the closure of the warehouse in Hamburg, West Germany which was functioning for the last many years. It was closed because it was showing continuous loss as the exporters were not making proper use of the facilities. We have received a number of applications for its re-opening and we will consider it if the exporters here want to be benefitted by that facility. But during the past few years our experience has been that it used to run in loss instead of profit. The decision of closure was taken by the Handicrafts and Handloom Export Council after due consideration. We will reconsider the suggestion made by the hon. Member and other such suggestions

received by us. We have received many suggestions similar to those given by the hon. Member. We will ask the Corporation to reconsider it.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the handloom of Rajasthan is world famous, especially the *kota-doria* sarees of Kaithun. Fortunately these sarees are manufactured in my constituency but the problems of those people are numerous and the mediators exploit them. Similarly, the tie and die *chunri* sarees of Rajasthan are also very famous. But it is unfortunate that the Export Promotion Council which is based in the south pays special attention to the handloom of southern States and ignores Rajasthan completely. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: This is not true. The people in our area are starving. People are committing suicide in Shri Ranga's constituency.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: I am talking about Rajasthan. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government will pay special attention to Rajasthan or provide any special facility there?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Doria sarees are manufactured on handloom in Kaithun since long. The hon. Member has drawn my attention on this subject a number of times. We also sought the help of the State Government in this regard. But the problem is that the weavers have not been able to get the full benefit, since there are no co-operative societies. We are in touch with the State Government. I have asked them to formulate a special scheme which can help in developing Kaithun and its neighbouring areas. Efforts are being made to find out ways of distributing yarn and providing more attention to marketing facilities. So far as export is concerned, I do not think that we are facing any problem because of the Export Promotion Council being based in South. The

Government will definitely consider the problems of the exporters.

[English]

**Composition of National Consumer
Dispute Redressal Commission**

*744. SHRIC. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

and the dates of appointment of the Members thereon;

(b) the average time taken by the Commission in disposing of the complaints; and

(c) the steps taken for speedy disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission consists of the following Members:

1.	Hon'ble Justice Shri V.B. Eradi Supreme Court Judge (Retd.)	President
2.	Smt. A.S. Vijayakar	Member
3.	Shri Y. Krishan	Member
4.	Dr. A.K. Ghosh	Member
5.	Dr. Rais Ahmed	Member

The President and Members have been appointed through a notification dated August 17, 1988.

(b) and (c). It has heard 3 matters and reserved them for orders. The Commission expects that all matters, so far received, can be disposed of within the next two months.

[Translation]

SHRIC. JANGA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question it has been stated that the commission was constituted on 17 August 1988. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when were the Chairman and other Members appointed?

SHRISAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Who has appointed the Chairman?

MR. SPEAKER: And why has he been appointed?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Mr. Speaker, the

reply is very clear. The notification regarding the appointment of the Chairman and the Members was made on the 17 August 1988. However, so far as the Chairman and his appointment is concerned the matter was to be approved by the A.C.C. This was initiated quite early. Approval of Chairman was obtained for issuing of the notification and he had already assumed the charges. But so far as the other Members are concerned they assumed the charge only after 17 August.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: The Chairman was appointed earlier and the Members, thereafter but, the notification for both was made at one time. Is there any staff available for the disposal of the complaints addressed to the Chairman. May I know whether the State Governments have also appointed such a commission at the district level and, if not, what are the reasons behind it? Is the Central Government giving any assistance to them?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the