

as early as possible as soon as the accounts are finalised. Now, my hon. friend wanted to know how much has been released for the years 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80. So far as Maharashtra is concerned, for 1977-78 it is Rs. 74.64 crores, for the year 1978-79, it is Rs. 78.08 crores and for the year 1979-80, it is Rs. 94.73 crores. For the current year up till now, Rs. 17.0 crores has been released.

#### **Fabrics blended with Polynosic**

\*306. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether polynosic a new man-made fibre has entered the fabric composition in a big way and cloth blended with polynosic is exempted from price stamping; and

(b) do Government propose to review the price stamping policy and make price stamping compulsory for all fabrics blended with polynosic?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

Polynosic is the brand name for superior modified viscose fibre which blends better with cotton for producing blended fabrics. At present production of cotton fabrics blended with polynosic is around 16 per cent of the total quantum of fabrics blended with cotton and viscose. The price stamping scheme is applicable mainly to cotton fabrics, where art silk content is less than 60 per cent by weight. Art silk fabrics, being mainly from the decentralised sector, and catering generally to affluent sections are exempted from the price stamping scheme.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: It has been stated in the statement that the price stamping scheme is applicable mainly to cotton fabrics where art silk content is less than 60 per cent

by weight. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the proportion of art silk content in polynosic and whether Government treat polynosic as art silk fabrics?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is treated as art silk fabric and so far as the content is concerned, I have explained in the statement. It is up to or around 16 per cent. But I am told that it can be used to the extent of 25 to 30 per cent.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: The price stamping scheme is in existence since long to protect the interests of the consumers so that they may not be exploited. May I know from the hon. Minister how Government has come to the conclusion that the art silk fabrics are mainly catering to the affluent section so that they get exemption from the scheme? Has any survey been conducted to this effect?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: If the hon. Member looks at the statement he would know that where the content is less than 60 per cent, the price stamping is compulsory. Where the content is 60 per cent or more, naturally, the price stamping scheme is not applicable. That is exempted from the stamping scheme.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: As a matter of fact, I would like to say that this fabric, particularly, man-made fabric, is mainly purchased by the affluent section and the industry makes enormous profits. The hon. Minister says that there will be no stamping for those fabrics whose content of art silk is 60 per cent and above. It is open for them to charge any amount of price. I want to know whether this practice will be stopped and whether it is not necessary that prices should be stamped on all varieties of this cloth. If the stamping is not applicable to this particular brand of cloth, then you are open to suspicion that shady deals are being allowed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member suspects that there will be shady deal everything. I cannot tell anything about this. So far as

the point raised by him is concerned, it is just a suggestion.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** I wanted to know whether there will be stamping of prices on those fabrics. Why are these varieties not stamped?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** If the hon. Member has made a suggestion, I have accepted it that it is a suggestion.

#### **I.T.D.C's Projects in Kerala**

\*807. **SHRI A. A. RAHIM:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) which are the new tourist spots proposed to be developed in the country by the Central Government during the current plan;

(b) what are the tourism development projects planned to be taken up by ITDC in Kerala during the Plan period; and

(c) whether the unique Ponmudi Hills near Trivandrum are included among the spots which are to be developed as major tourist centres in the country?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR):** (a) For determining tourist centres for development during the Five Year Plan 1980-85, discussions have recently been held on a regional basis with representatives of the State tourist Organisations. They have been requested to draw up a blue-print of tourism development in their respective States.

(b) No projects have been planned to be taken up by the ITDC in Kerala.

(c) No, Sir.

**SHRI A. A. RAHIM:** Ponmudi Hills in Kerala is the loveliest place and it is very close to Trivandrum and Kovalam. It should be developed as an international tourist centre. Has the Government given any priority for this tourist centre because it

is very close to Trivandrum and Kovalam? It needs hardly half-an-hour drive to reach from Kovalam beach site to the hill top. This should be given priority. It is the most beautiful place in Kerala and a beautiful mountain spot. Will the ITDC take up its development on a priority basis? This is a very important centre.

**THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):** In the main answer to the question, my friend has stated that we are awaiting a blueprint from the Kerala Government. The working group set up by the Planning Commission recommended an outlay of Rs. 95 lakhs for the tourism development for 1980-81. The final minutes of the Planning Commission, although have not yet come to us, but, of course, this is what has been agreed to. Whatever development my hon. friend wants, I would suggest to him to tell the Kerala State Government to come with a proposal and we will consider it.

**SHRI A. A. RAHIM:** The hotel at Kovalam is almost a five-star hotel and it attracts a lot of foreign tourists. I would request the Minister to construct a medium type hotel at Kovalam so that tourists from our country could also come and live there. At present, the Kovalam hotel is very costly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is a suggestion for making a note of it.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** There is no such proposal at present. We have got only one project, Yatri Niwas hotel which is being constructed at Delhi only. I cannot note the suggestion also, because it is only after the evaluation of this hotel that we would consider setting up such hotels at other places, and for that also, this has next to go to the Metropolitan cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.