

(b) With a view to obtaining a remunerative price for Darjeeling tea, the major producers of Darjeeling District are presently considering the formulation of a marketing society with the support of the Tea Board. A Darjeeling Tea Planters' Association has already started functioning.

(c) Recognising that the tea industry in Darjeeling is in need of a special assistance for rehabilitation, Government have sanctioned a special scheme of interest subsidy the revitalisation of Darjeeling tea gardens. The scheme includes a package of development programmes in Darjeeling over a period of 10 years which covers extension planting of 2000 hasctares, replacement planting of 4500 hectare and rejuvenation of 3000 hectares. The scheme provides for grant of interest subsidy to the extent of 5.1 percent per annum on NABARD refinancing.

Additionally, the Tea Board has a Research Centre of its own in the Darjeeling District with the basic objective of increasing the productivity of Darjeeling tea by adoption of improved methods of tea cultivation.

Closure of Textile Mills in Gujarat

*194. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Textile Mills closed in Gujarat during the year 1983 and the number of workers rendered jobless ;

(b) the main reasons therefor ;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to run these mills for the benefit of workers ;

(d) the number of textile mills in Gujarat taken over by Government upto now !

(e) how they are functioning ; and

(f) whether Government propose to take over these closed mills also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Out of

the 12 cotton textile mills in Gujarat which were closed as on 31-1-1984, five were closed during 1983. Number of workers on roll on these five mills is about 8000.

(b) The main reasons for their closure are financial difficulties and strike by workers.

(c) and (f) A Group of Officers is going into the problems of these mills and appropriate action will be taken on receipt of their report.

(d) Presently there are three textile mills in Gujarat which have been taken over by Government. Besides, 12 units in Gujarat were earlier nationalised under the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1974.

(e) All of them export the Fine Knitting Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad (Spinning Department) are working ensuring continuity of production and employment to workers.

Representations from Handloom Sector for Higher Subsidy.

*195. SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received by Central Government from Handloom sector that it be given a higher subsidy as is granted to the National Textile Corporation (NTC) to produce cheap cloth ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : (a) Yes Sir.

(b)The proposal for increase in the subsidy is under the consideration of the Government.

Guidelines to Nabard Regarding Loans to Handlooms Weavers

*196. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether his Ministry has sent guidelines to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to refinance the advances made by the State Co-operative Bank and Commercial banks to handloom weavers for acquiring and modernising looms and for constructing work sheds ;

(b) if so, the conditions and procedures laid down to refinance the co—operative and commercial banks ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has decided to extend refinance facilities to State Co-operative Banks and commercial banks in respect of their advances to handloom weavers for acquisition modernisation of looms and constructions of worksheds. The financing banks will be eligible for refinance from NABARD (upto 90 percent of lendings) at a concessional rate of 6½ percent per annum repayable in 3 to 5 years in the case of acquisition or modernisation of looms and 8 to 10 years in the case of construction of worksheds and installation of new looms. The rate of interest to be charged to the ultimate beneficiaries shall not exceed 10 percent per annum.

Assistance to weavers within the co-operative fold will be through the State/Central Co-operative Banks and primary weavers societies. Those outside the co-operative fold but registered as members with Handloom Development Corporation will be refinanced through scheduled commercial banks.

Disposal of Rejected Items of 100 Percent Export Units Dumped in Indian Ports

*197. SRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) how the rejected items of the 100 per cent exports units are disposed of when they are dumped in Indian ports ;

(b) whether Government maintain a track on these rejected items for which

considerable facilities are being extended to their manufacturers by Government ;

(c) whether there is any penalty clause for these manufacturers ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RAJAN LASKAR) : (a) to (e) Government have not come across any report of 100 per cent export oriented units having dumped adjected items in Indian Ports.

The 100% exports oriented units work in bond under the over-all supervision of the Customs. Customs give permission to units to sell rejects in the domestic tariff area after satisfying themselves in regard to the conditions prescribed by the Government in this behalf.

The Imports & Exports Control Act and the Import Control Order empower Government to (i) order diversion of imported goods (whether capital goods or raw materials) to other person or actual user ; (ii) confiscate imported goods or materials in possession of 100% EOUs ; (iii) impose fiscal penalties ; (iv) debar the unit from importing goods or from receiving licences ; (v) recover from the defaulting unit the custom duty/excise duty due to the Government.

Violation of any condition of licence also amounts to contravention of provision of Clause 5 (4) of the Import Control Order of 1955 and the defaulter could be criminally prosecuted in a Court of Law on a complaint filed by the CBI for contravention of the order made under the Imports & Exports Control Act.

Direction by LIC to Escorts for Removal of Directors

*198. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : SHRI DHARAM DASS SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :