

Further releases are to be made on receiving utilisation certificates from the Government of Assam.

3. Thus, a total amount of Rs. 25 lakhs (Rs. 15 lakhs for Intensive Development Project and Rs. 10 lakhs for Export Production Project) have already been sanctioned by the Government of India to the Government of Assam in the year 1976-77.

4. Under the handloom cooperative development programme of the Government of India, Rs. 5 lakhs was released to the Government of Assam for giving share capital assistance to its Apex Marketing Institution for the year 1976-77.

5. In addition to the funds provided under the Central Plan during 1976-77, a provision of Rs. 7 lakhs was made in the State Plan for the Intensive Development Project. Besides, Rs. 2.40 lakhs have been sanctioned by the Nationalised Banks under the D. R. I. Scheme for weavers in Assam. A total provision of Rs. 62 lakhs is being made in the State Plan for 1977-78 (Rs. 34.50 lakhs within the cooperative sector and Rs. 27.50 lakhs outside the cooperative sector).

6. Besides the Intensive Development Project and the Export Production Project mentioned above, the Government of Assam has a DRI Scheme of Bank Finance for weavers spread all over the State. Under this scheme the State Government had sponsored 5,000 applications to the Nationalised Banks for financial assistance and about 652 weavers have benefited under the scheme so far. In the case of Intensive Development Project and Export Production Project mentioned above the State Government had sponsored 1,000 weavers for receiving credit under the DRI Scheme and 255 weavers have benefited by the loans under this scheme so far.

Distribution of Viscose Filament Yarn

*494. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps for ensuring distribution of viscose filament yarn to the handloom weavers without any middle agencies; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take over all production of viscose filament yarn for distribution instead of 60 per cent of the total production as at present?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). The present system of distribution of viscose filament yarn to the weavers directly is through a voluntary agreement between the spinners and the weavers. Under this agreement, a part of the production of the spinning units is distributed directly to the weavers at agreed fair prices and the remaining portion sold in the market by the spinners through their dealers.

There is no proposal, at present, to take over all production of viscose filament yarn for distribution. The Government is taking steps for augmentation of supplies of yarn to meet the shortage. Steps are also being taken for effective implementation of the existing agreement and formulation of a new voluntary agreement.

Non-Utilisation of Soviet Loan

*495. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the *Times of India* dated 6th June, 1977 under the caption, 'Soviet Loan Likely to remain Unutilised'; and