

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that after having called sisters-in-law (*Jethani and devrani*) you have now called the mother-in-law.

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what is the criterion for the selection of tourist centres ? There are beautiful tourist spots in Maharashtra where tourist centres can be developed, but no attention has been paid to them. I want to know whether there is a committee for the selection of spots which provides tourist centre facilities ?

[English]

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Sir, firstly, I would like to clarify that tourism facilities are provided by utilisation of funds of the Centre, that is, the Ministry of Tourism, by the ITDC, by the State Government and the private sectors. All these contribute to development of tourism. Now, I would say, the criteria for selecting a place is how much tourism it attracts, what is the scenic beauty, what is the cultural background, what are the facilities available and what should be done ? A number of factors are taken into consideration for marking a place as a place of tourist interest and, in this, certainly the State Governments have quite a lot of say. If there is any particular proposal regarding Maharashtra, if the hon. Member give it to me. I would ask for the comments of the Maharashtra Government. My answer is that whatever proposals will be given to us—I cannot say that every proposal will be accepted—each proposal will be considered on merits. But the proposals will certainly be considered.

Indian Handloom Exports

*265. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE† :
SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the new definition of "needle and thread" notified by the US Government on 24 June,

1985 precluding the use of any hand or foot operated machines in the stitching or hemming of handloom made-ups like cushion covers, place-mats and napkins, India has lost orders worth Rs. Eight crores from United States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if European Economic Community countries, Japan and Canada decide to follow the US example, exports of handlooms made-ups from India would come to halt; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to save the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has not received any proposal from any of these countries to adopt the definition of "needle and thread" in relation to handloom textile products and therefore the question of exports of handloom made-ups from India coming to a halt does not arise.

(c) Dose not arise.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Sir, the hon. Minister has given answer to question (a) saying 'No Sir'. The news had prominently appeared in the Economic Times of 8 September, 1985 in which it was stated :

"New Delhi is rushing an official team to Washington to persuade the U.S. Government to withdraw its new definition of handloom made-ups, which has brought export of this item to a standstill and threatened the livelihood of thousands of handloom weavers in the country."

Not only that. The news report further states...

MR. SPEAKER : No need to read all that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is very interesting, Sir.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : The report also says :

"The delegation, which will be led by Dr. J. K. Bagchi, Joint Secretary (Textiles), Commerce Ministry, will include representatives of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council and the Apparels Export Promotian Council. The crucial negotiations are expected to begin on 10th September."

The news item says all this. My question is whether there was any move in this respect by the U.S.A., and then ultimately Government sent this delegation, and then the matter was dropped.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The U.S. Government's interpretation about the needle and thread is that in handloom, no machine either operated by hand or foot should be utilized. But it was our contention that under the Multi-fibres Arrangement and our bilateral agreement with the United States, this was not acceptable to us; and the discussions took place. As a result of these discussions, USA Government has already extended the period upto September 1986. The question is still open for further discussion.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : It has become a very normal practice of these importing countries to reject our handloom consignments. We are facing a lot of rejections. I want to know from the hon. Minister: what is the percentage of actual rejection from those countries, what are the main reasons, and also whether many of the States have urged the Central Government to evolve a new handloom policy, in the present context. Is the Government prepared to evolve a new handloom policy?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The basic question is that we are not going to accept this contention that the hand and foot operated machines should not be used for the made-ups in handlooms, because millions of pieces are prepared; and if they are done only with needle and hand, it will take years before anybody can supply these requirements.

But as far as the question of rejection is concerned, there is no specific report about wholesale rejections. There might be

1 or 2 rejections here and there; but as a whole, the quality control has been very satisfactory.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : The Minister has not answered my question fully. What about evolving a new handloom policy?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Our present handloom policy is entirely satisfactory. There is no question of reviewing the policy.

SHRI ANAND GAJAPATHI RAJU : In view of the fact that export of textiles is taperng off both in the EEC and in the American continent, is there any attempt going to be made by Government of India to bring up a review of the multi-fibre agreement in the meeting of GATT which is coming up next year? Also, in view of the fact that Western countries are coming out of recession now, and of the fact that we are exporting a lot of raw materials to them, will we tie up the exports of these handloom products with the export of raw materials, so that we can get an assured market?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The matter regarding such policies is always under the consideration of GATT; and naturally, in the next GATT meeting, this will also be considered. We would certainly see that our interests are guarded, and we get the best terms for our own country.

Revenue Collections

*266. **SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of revenue collections during the last financial year;

(b) the steps being taken to increase the collections; and

(c) the collections expected during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) The revenue collections during 1984-85 amounted to Rs. 22,816.05 crores.