

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The details of the agreements are as under :

- (i) Hill Areas Land and Water Development Project—for improvement of irrigation system in Himachal Pradesh—loan of Rs. 29.6 crores (equivalent to \$ 24 million).
- (ii) National Social Forestry Project—to raise income and employment among the rural poor by planting small trees on marginal land for timber, fuelwood and fodder in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh—loan of Rs. 18.4 crores and grant of Rs. 1 crore (equivalent to \$ 15.7 million).
- (iii) Agriculture Research Project—to upgrade scientific and Technological research and development on high priority agricultural problems—grant of Rs. 3.7 crores (equivalent to \$ 3 million).
- (iv) Programme for the Advancement of Commercial Technology—to accelerate the pace and quality of technological innovation in India by promoting and funding Indo-US research and development of joint ventures through India's private sector—of Rs. 24 crores (equivalent to \$ 1.95 million). These are on-going projects and the assistance now provided is in addition to the amounts earlier agreed to by US AID.

The US loans are repayable over a period of 40 years including a grace period of 10 years and carry interest at the rate of 2 per cent for the first 10 years and 3 per cent thereafter.

Extension of moratorium on nuclear tests by USSR

2279. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union has extended in May, 1986 its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests;

(b) if so, what was the response of the USA and other nuclear powers thereto; and

(c) the Government's assessment about the possibilities of an agreement being reached amongst different nuclear powers to stop further nuclear tests and a ban on production of such weapons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes Sir. In May, 1986, the Soviet Union extended its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing upto August 6.

(b) So far, no other nuclear weapon State has joined in the moratorium.

(c) The Government of India hope that the nuclear weapon States would soon be able to reach an agreement to stop further nuclear tests and ban the production of nuclear weapons.

Export of Tea by TTCI

2280. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reason why Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) is not getting any business from the State Trading Corporation during the last few years;

(b) the year-wise details of export of TTCI for the last three years; and

(c) whether Government are encouraging private sector in the matter of export of tea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (c). The State Trading Corporation of India makes use of its marketing strength, expertise and foreign offices to obtain export orders for various products, including tea, which it executes with the help of associates. With the con-

version of TTCI into a subsidiary of STC, tea operations of both the companies are in the process of being rationalised.

Exports of tea by TTCI during the past three years have been as under :

	(Rs. in Crores)
1983-84	25.19
1984-85	26.04
1985-86 (Provisional)	27.08 (including exports through associates)

The major part of the tea trade is in the private sector.

Handloom unit at Howrah

2281. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a Government institution "TANTUJA" is now a prime unit of handloom in West Bengal having wide ranging activities in Howrah, Nadia and Hooghly districts; and

(b) whether Government propose to start a handloom unit at Howrah, West Bengal to utilise the capacity of skilled weavers there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, Tantuja is the apex Handloom Cooperative Society of West Bengal.

(b) No, Sir. The State Government does not have any proposal to start a handloom unit at Howrah. However, there are already 18 Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies in Howrah district.

Allotment of funds for modernisation of Textile Industry through IOBI

2282. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Textile Industry modernisation programme envisaged Rs. 750 crores fund through Industrial Development Bank of India;

(b) if so, how will it be monitored;

(c) how much amount will be spent for West Bengal units, Central Cotton Mill, Howrah in particular; and

(d) whether this will include import of machinery from abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme will be operative with effect from 1st August, 1986 for a period of 2 years to be reviewed thereafter. The Industrial Development Bank of India have initiated action on modalities for disbursement of this fund and its monitoring mechanism. The case of West Bengal Textile Units including Central Cotton Mill, Howrah, will be considered under the terms and conditions of this Scheme as and when their applications are submitted.

(d) Import of textile machinery in respect of cotton textile industry would be limited to the extent of those types of machines, which are not available indigenously.

Relief to Indian exporters to Gulf countries

2283. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any scheme to provide relief to Indian project exporters to the Gulf countries especially in view of slackening of construction work there, as also difficulties arising from delay in securing payments from some of these Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?