

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 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). With a view to providing support to project exports to Gulf countries and other destinations, it has been decided to :

- (i) grant project assistance to the tune of 10 per cent of the net foreign exchange earnings from the service portion of the contracts in respect of industrial turnkey and civil construction projects as well as for export of consultancy services; and
- (ii) grant Market Development Assistance for reimbursement of cost of bids for turnkey/construction projects and consultancy services on a graduated scale. Generally, no payment difficulties vis-a-vis the Gulf countries have been reported. In the case of Iraq an arrangement for payment through crude oil supplies has been worked out.

Procurement of rubber by STC from domestic sources

2284. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken to authorise the State Trading Corporation to procure rubber from the domestic market;

(b) if so, when is it proposed to start the operation;

(c) details of target, norms and policies that would govern the operation especially to help arrest the declining prices of rubber in domestic market; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there is no effective machinery modality for price support in the event in the event of market decline and if so, steps being taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The objective is to stabilize the prices of domestic natural rubber around Rs. 16500/Tonne for RMA-4 grade. STC will intervene in the domestic market when the prices for RMA-4 rubber touch the floor level of Rs. 16200/Tonne.

(d) Does not arise.

Legislation for non-payment of deposits with companies

2285. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 281 on 9 August, 1985 regarding legislation for non-payment of deposits with companies and state :

(a) whether the legislation to make non-payment of deposits with companies after a notice period of two months to the company in writing as a punishable offence under the Indian Penal Code is being proposed during the current Session of Parliament; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission has not proceeded with the further consideration of its working paper in view of certain proposals for amendment of the Companies Act, 1956 under consideration of the Government.

Piracy of rubber and palm oil

2286. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by Government with regard to the reported piracy of goods like dry rubber and palm oil meant for India which is said to have ended up in China;

(b) the value of goods thus pirated; and

(c) the details of the persons/nations involved in the piracy ?