

4 lanes in another 85.5 km is either in progress of commencing shortly. Four laning of the balance length would depend upon resources position in the future plans, inter-se priority of this work on all India basis and availability of funds.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to Handloom Sector of Andhra Pradesh

735. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds made by Union Government to handloom sector of Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92 and utilisation of the fund upto January 1992 by this sector;

(b) whether in view of the starvation deaths of the workers during March-September, 1991 the allocation for the state was increased; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Allocation of funds to the handloom sector is made scheme-wise and, not State-wise. During 1991-92, the Central Government has released a sum of Rs. 2054.78 lakhs to Andhra Pradesh upto 31st January, 1992.

(b) and (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been of the view that the deaths of weavers were not due to starvation, while at the same time being of the opinion that there was distress condition. Some of the actions taken by Govt. of India to ameliorate the conditions of the Weavers of Andhra Pradesh are:-

(i) Additional target of 5 million

sq. metres of janata cloth was allotted to Andhra Pradesh and for this purpose a sum of Rs. 127.50 lakh was advanced. This target was in addition to the initial target of 52 million sq. metres allotted to the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) For non-janata cloth the State Government has been given an additional allocation by way of market development assistance to enable it to procure cloth worth Rs. 2 crores.

(iii) In order to upgrade the skills of weavers as well as the marketability of their products a decentralised training programme was sanctioned for 300 weavers.

(iv) A Group Insurance Scheme to cover 12000 weavers in the districts of Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam has been sanctioned and the share of Govt. of India towards premia has been released.

Cut on Central Government Employees Salaries

736. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a 10 per cent cut in Salaries of the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor particularly in view of fall in their purchasing power due to sharp rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Government do not propose to impose a 10 per cent cut in the salaries of the Central Government Employees.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Export of Extracts of Ornamental Plants

737. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large scale exports of extracts of some commonly ornamental plants such as rose, jasmine etc., are being made by illicit traders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Flower extracts like rose and jasmine concentrates are freely allowed for exports under the current Export Policy. The Government are not aware of any large scale exports of these extracts by illicit traders.

[*Translation*]

Widening of G.T. Road in Sasaram

738. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds for widening of G.T. Road in Sasaram city; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which work on this road is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Four laning of National Highway No. 2 through Sasaram city is included in Annual Plan 1991-92 for sanction. The work will commence after issue of sanction and the award of contract. As such, it is too early to say when the widening work will actually start.

[*English*]

Crisis in Handloom Industry in Kerala

739. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any crisis in handloom industry in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for the development of handloom industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Kerala submitted a note on the problems faced by the handloom industry in the State. The note highlighted the following major issues:-

(i) Fluctuation and hike in price of raw material;

(ii) Deficit in the production of finer