

Funds Under Legal Aid Scheme to Lakshadweep

480. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Lakshadweep during each of the last three years under the legal aid scheme; and

(b) the number of persons given assistance under this scheme and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the scheme so that poor and needy persons are benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Grants-in-aid of Rs. one lakh and Rs. 50,000/- during the financial year 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively was given to the Kerala State Legal Aid & Advance Board, Kozhi for the implementation of various Legal Aid Scheme in Lakshadweep.

(b) Since the Scheme has been introduced from March, 1992, sufficient time has not elapsed for persons to take benefit of the Scheme. However, information has been called for from the Kerala State Legal Aid & Advice Board and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Funds for Modernisation of Cochin Port

481. PROF. SAVITHRILAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated for the modernisation and development of Cochin Port for the year 1992-93;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred upto June 1992; and

(c) the time bound programme for utilisation of the remaining sanctioned amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The total amount allocated for modernisation and development of Cochin Port for the year 1992-93 is Rs. 42.17 crores.

(b) Upto June 1992, the actual expenditure incurred is about Rs. 3.15 crores.

(c) Yes Madam, there is a time bound programme for utilisation of the remaining sanctioned amount.

Production and Import of Cotton

482. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of cotton produced this year in the country;

(b) the carry-over stock from last year, if any;

(c) the estimated total requirement of cotton for domestic needs, sector-wise;

(d) whether the Government have accorded permission to import cotton this year;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the quantum of cotton imported during the last two months;

(g) the criteria fixed by the Government to allocate sufficient quota of cotton to the handloom/powerloom sector; and

(h) the estimated carry over stock that is likely to be available for the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Cotton Advisory Board at its meeting held on 14.2.92 has estimated the cotton production for the cotton season 1991-92 at 116 lakh bales of 170 Kgs. each.

(b) the Carry over stock of last cotton season (1990-91) estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board was 22.64 lakh bales.

(c) The estimated total requirement of cotton for domestic needs as per the estimate of the Cotton Advisory Board, Sector-wise for the action year 1991-1992 is as under:-

Mill consumption	106.25 Lakh bales.
Non-mill consumption	8.00 lakh bales.
Exports	1.00 lakh bales.
Total		115.25 lakh bales.

(d) to (g). Keeping in view the difficulties faced by the handloom sector due to rise in the prices of yarn, the Government decided to allow import of upto 2 lakh bales of cotton free of import duty exclusively for conversion into hank yarn for the handloom sector, apart from the scheme of advance licensing for export production. Under the hank yarn arrangement, only spinning mills will be allowed to import cotton subject to the condition that they shall supply hank yarn to the designated handloom agencies at a price 12% lower than its invoice price on 19th March, 1992. No import of cotton has taken place so far under the above arrangement.

(h) The carry over stock that is likely to be available for the next year has been estimated at about 28.39 lakh bales by the Cotton Advisory Board.

[*Translation*]

Trade Agreements with Russia

483, SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreements have been signed between India and Russia during May, 1992; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b). The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Trade and Economic Cooperation was signed on 4th May, 1992 in New Delhi. The agreement was signed by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce on behalf of the Government of India and by M. Gennady Burbulis on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Agreement is valid upto 30.12.96 and shall be automatically extended for a further successive period of five years, unless either contracting party informs the other party in writing of its intention to terminate the agreement atleast six months prior to its expiry. Besides according Most Favoured Nation Treatment to each other in all matters of trade and commercial cooperation, the Agreement