

(f) For moderating the price rise, the Government's intervention has been primarily in augmenting supplies of essential commodities. Increasing allocation through PDS, open market sales of wheat and rice by FCI, import of essential commodities and higher monthly releases of non-levy sugar are some of the steps taken to stabilise the prices.

[*Translation*]

National Child Labour Project

4496. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been provided to Bihar and Gujarat under the National Child Labour Project during the last three years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to provide funds under the National Child Labour Project to Bihar and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (c). Yes, Sir. During 1993-94 grants released for the sanctioned National Child Labour Projects in Bihar and Gujarat amounted to Rs. 6,46,000/- and Rs. 70,000/- respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Handloom Sector

4497. SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

SHRI UPENDRA NATH
VERMA:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI N. DENNIS:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Janata cloth and some other items which are reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector are also being produced in powerloom sector in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 recently upheld by the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Instances of violation of Handloom Reservation Order have been detected and FIRs in 47 cases have been lodged in the Police Station concerned. Production of Janata cloth is allowed only in the handloom sector, while controlled cloth is produced in the mill sector.

(c) To ensure effective implementation of the Act, Government has issued directions to the implementing agencies from time to time. Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors working in the Weavers' Service Centres have also been authorised to implement the Act, besides other implement agencies like Textile Commissioner and Directors of Handlooms of State Governments. The Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Act to review the nature of articles that may be reserved

for exclusive production by handlooms. Central Assistance for setting up of Enforcement Machinery to some of the States has been released.

Production of Hank-Yarn

4498. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE
RAI:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken action against some textile mills under the Essential commodities Act, 1955 for not fulfilling their obligation to produce 50% hank-yarn out of their total production;

(b) if so, the names of those mills alongwith the action taken against them;

(c) whether the Government provide tax exemption for utilisation of hank-yarn in handloom sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this tax-exempted hank-yarn is being used in other sectors in addition to handloom sector; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to ensure utilisation of hank-yarn in handloom sector only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Government has filed FIRs against the spinning mills who have contravened the provisions of Hank Yarn Packing Notification

and those mills who have not furnished the information as directed under the Textile (Development and Regulation) Order, 1993 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Cotton and Jute yarn supplied in plain reeled hank form are exempt from levy of excise duty. Concessional rate of excise duty is leviable on cotton yarn supplied in cross reeled hank form to the Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies and National/State Handloom Development Corporations for use in the handloom sector.

(e) Some quantity of hank yarn, particularly cross-reeled hank yarn, is reportedly being used in the production of yarn dyed varieties in decentralised powerloom sector.

(f) In order to minimise use of hank yarn enjoying excise concession in powerloom sector, such concession is available only for yarn supplied to handloom agencies

Popularisation of Sheep Rearing Techniques

4499. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether modern and scientific techniques of sheep rearing, grading of wool are being popularised among sheep breeders through audio-visual media in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard, State-wise?