

[English]

Jute Industry

4549. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee to look into the demands submitted by a delegation of the Federation of Chatkal Majdoor Union;

(b) if so, the details of the demand made by the delegation; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). The Federation of Chatkal Majdoor Unions has submitted a memorandum containing 16 demands to the Prime Minister.

The demands relate to jute industry and trade, role of Government agencies, competition from synthetics, arrears of dues, labour issues, modernisation of mills etc. These issues will be looked into by a committee proposed to be set up dues, labour issues, modernisation of mills etc. These issues will be looked into by a Committee proposed to be set up by Government.

Policy to Attract F.D.I.

4550. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make the present economic policy more transparent to attract more Foreign Direct Investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to offer more concessions to foreign investors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The package of economic reforms introduced in mid 1991, including the Industrial Policy and Foreign Investment Policy initiatives were directed towards imparting greater transparency in policy and automaticity in procedures.

(c) and (d). Reform is an ongoing and continuous process to provide impetus to growth and improve the investment environment both for domestic and foreign investors through various fiscal and tariff measures, delicensing of trade and industry, and liberalisation in the financial sector and public sector.

Agricultural Labour

4551. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a large number of agricultural labourers in Gujarat State as compared to other States in the Country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Marine Products

4552. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE :
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :
SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for the export of marine products during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of marine products exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost the export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) No target has been fixed for the export of marine products during the current year. However, it is expected that quantity of 300000 tons with a value of US\$ 1250 million could be exported.

(c) The total quantity of marine products exported and foreign exchange earned there from during each of the last three years, in major countries/markets is given below :

| Market | | Q - Quantity in M.ts V - US\$ million | | |
|-----------|---|--|---------|---------|
| | | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 |
| Japan | Q | 41240 | 44985 | 56640 |
| | V | 279.06 | 378.04 | 542.60 |
| U S A | Q | 20141 | 26152 | 32790 |
| | V | 66.29 | 97.62 | 135.65 |
| W. Europe | Q | 67582 | 71850 | 76500 |
| | V | 178.01 | 205.72 | 250.43 |
| S.E. Asia | Q | 62410 | 78469 | 87430 |
| | V | 63.36 | 82.99 | 98.84 |
| Others | Q | 17652 | 22504 | 19883 |
| | V | 28.74 | 33.88 | 15.93 |
| Total | Q | 209025 | 243960 | 273243 |
| | V | 615.46 | 798.25 | 1043.45 |

(d) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by MPEDA to increase export of marine products are:

(i) Assistance in stepping up production of culture fisheries by bringing more area under

shrimp culture, establishing shrimp hatcheries and in sourcing feed and fish seed at cheaper rates.

- (ii) In the case of capture fisheries, MPEDA renders help in diversifying fishing activity, modification of mechanised vessels and providing diesel at international prices. MPEDA can also participate in the equity of projects set up in the areas of culture and capture fisheries.
- (iii) Assistance is also provided for new units acquiring quality control equipment, individual quick freezing machines, generator sets or for technology upgradation of existing units.
- (iv) MPEDA's help is also available for sponsoring overseas delegations participating in Trade Fairs and organising buyer-seller meets in major markets.

[Translation]

Assessment of Projects

4553. SHRI LALLBABU RAI .
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have stressed the financial institutions for early assessment of projects belonging to Bihar; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard up to March 31, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (b). The industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the decision to extend assistance by financial institutions to industrial projects is based on economic, commercial, financial viability and technical feasibility of the project. The location of the project is assessed from the angle of its suitability.

Details of applications received, sanctioned and rejected in respect of the State of Bihar during 1993-94 and 1994-95 under IDBI's direct loan and refinance schemes are as under :

| | Applications received | Applications sanctioned | Applications closed/ withdrawn/ rejected |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1993-94 | 32 | 28 | 1 |
| 1994-95 | 27 | 18 | 2 |

IDBI has also decided to provide term loans to projects in Bihar even if the cost of project is less than Rs. 5 crores subject to the project satisfying the norms of viability and other criteria.

[English]

Development of Handloom Sector

4554. MAJOR D.D. KHANORIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the development of handloom sector in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government of India has introduced various schemes for the Development of Handloom Sector but allocation of funds in the handloom sector is made Scheme-wise and not State Wise. On the basis of proposals received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, Central Government has released funds to the tune of Rs. 64.31 lakhs during 1992-93, Rs. 102.32 lakhs during 1993-94 and Rs. 122.58 lakhs during 1994-95 under Plan Schemes and Rs. 24.43 lakhs during 1992-93, Rs. 16.16 lakhs during 1993-94 and Rs. 43.31 lakhs during 1994-95 under Non-Plan Schemes. A Statement regarding progress of releases during the above mentioned period is enclosed.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S. Name of Scheme No. | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 (provisional) |
|---|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| PLAN | | | |
| 1. Share Capital Assistance to Primary Weavers Cooperative Society. | | | -Transferred to State Govt. |
| 2. Asstt. for Modernisation /Renovation purchase of looms. | - | -do- | |
| 3. Asstt. for Pre-loom and Post-loom Processing Facilities. | - | -do- | |
| 4. Margin Money per Destitute Weavers | 2.20 | 2.27 | 2.44 |
| 5. Research and Development | - | - | - |
| 6. Project Package Scheme | 43.66 | 57.05 | 25.16 |