

Policy, 1987. As a part of the policy, National Child Labour Projects are being implemented in eight states including the State of Tamil Nadu. Under the National Child Labour Projects children withdrawn from work are provided primary education, vocational training, nutrition and stipends.

National Child Labour Projects are implemented through Project Societies whose chairmen are in most cases Collectors/District Magistrates of Districts where National Child Labour Projects are functioning.

At present there are 12 Project Societies in 8 states covering 13668 children under the National Child Labour Projects.

In addition, the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has identified 100 districts with highest population of child labour and state Governments in which these districts fall have been addressed to pool together the funds being utilised by various departments for child welfare and make them available to an implementing agency at the district level so that suitable innovative programmes meeting the local needs are evolved to eliminate child labour.

The Government are also finalising the project to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations estimated at 2 million in a phased manner by the year 2000. Planning Commission has made an initial allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores for this purpose for the year 1995-1996.

Smuggling of Modern Weapons

1617. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of modern weapons across the border has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Research Centre for SSIs

1618. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a research centre to meet the requirements of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the financial institution which is likely to provide financial assistance for the setting up of the above centre;

(c) whether any proposal for the setting up of a small scale trade development board to meet the training requirement of the SSIs is also under the consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Raw Material

1619. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the export houses have started importing more raw materials like cotton and other textile items from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the countries from which the cotton and other raw material being imported;

(c) whether there is any plan to produce those kind of items in India under new textile policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT-SWAMY): (a) Under the current Exim Policy, raw materials like cotton and other textile fibres/yarns (other than raw silk) are allowed to be imported by all persons, including Export Houses, without any restrictions.

(b) A statement indicating the major countries of import of raw cotton, raw wool and synthetic fibres is attached.

(c) and (d) Besides encouraging qualitative and quantitative improvement in cotton production in the country, the Government have been taking a number of measures for facilitating increased production of artificial fibres in the country, which include abolition of compulsory licensing for setting up units which conform to Government's locational policy, progressive reduction in import duties on capital goods required for such projects etc.

STATEMENTS

Major Countries of import of raw cotton, raw wool and synthetic fibres

Item	Major Countries of import
Raw Cotton	Egypt, Sudan, Turkey, Turkmenistan
Raw Wool	Australia, New Zealand, Spain, South Africa
Synthetic fibres	Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia

Narcotics Trafficking

1620. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have signed a protocol to strengthen their cooperation in controlling trafficking in narcotics and precursor chemicals in the region; and

(b) if so, the date by which it is likely to come into effect and implemented by both the countries?