

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the role of SCICI in the matter of financing deep sea fishing industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). SCICI has reported that although internal performance budgets are fixed by them, there are no rigid industry-related targets. The actual sanctions to the shipping and fishing sectors during the last three years are, however, as under:

	(Rs. Crores.)	
	Shipping	Fishing
1991-92	298.50	7.75
1992-93	234.30	1.87
1993-94	571.80	

(d) and (e). SCICI, a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, is governed by the policies as decided by its Board of Directors from time to time. In so far as loans granted to shipping and fishing companies by erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee are concerned, SCICI acts as an agent (designated person) of Government for recovery/administration of portfolio

[Translation]

Trade Agreement with U.S.

2853. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreement or memorandum of understanding for commercial alliance has been signed between India and U.S.A. during the recent visit of U.S. Secretary for Commerce;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the areas covered under the above agreement; and

(c) the time by which the above agreements are likely to be implemented and the impact on our trade with U.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). During the recent visit of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to India in January, 1995, India and USA signed an MoU on the formation of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance. The Alliance envisages that the private sector representatives of the two countries will discuss commercial cooperation in specific sectors like

information, technology, transportation, infrastructure, food processing and implement trade/business development programmes. The alliance is expected to become operative within 90 days of signing of the MoU.

In addition, 25 Chief Executive Officers of large American companies accompanies the US Secretary of Commerce and signed or announced a number of MOUs/agreements etc. in different sectors including power, telecommunication, petrochemicals. These understanding when implemented are likely to result in increased Indo-US Trade and Commercial Ties.

[English]

Welfare of Handloom Weavers

2854. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the funds meant for the benefit of handloom weavers do not reach them in time resulting the conditions of weavers dilapidating day by day; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the financial condition of the weavers and ensure that funds reach them early?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). The Government have been taking special measures in coordination with the various State Governments to ensure that the funds meant for the benefit of handloom weavers reach them in time. In order to ensure compliance of above, the Government has been obtaining periodical progress reports and utilisation certificates of previous sanction of funds. Besides, the matter is also pursued with the concerned State Governments on a regular basis through exchange of correspondence, periodical high level meetings and appraisal of the progress of the schemes etc.

[Translation]

Security of Banks

2855. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to hand over the security of banks to the respective state Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). the State Governments are primarily responsible for providing protection to vital installations including currency chests of banks. At present, the currency chests of public sector banks except some belonging to State Bank of India group are guarded by