

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on potable ground water resources in Namibia.

The Trade Agreement between India and Namibia inter-alia provides for :-

- Grant of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment;
- To encourage setting-up of Joint Ventures in each other's territory in accordance with the laws and regulations on investment in force time to time;
- To encourage mutual visits by trade, economic and technical personnel;
- To allow the organisation of trade fairs and exhibitions in the respective countries and to grant each other facilities for holding such exhibitions;
- Setting up of a Joint Trade Committee to monitor the effective implementation of the Agreement.

The MOU on Cooperation on potable ground water resources involves hydro-geological and geo-physical survey for locating good quality aquifers and setting, drilling and equipping of 70 bore holes with India Mark III handpump for use by rural communities in Namibia. This is an extension of the project already being undertaken by VAPCOS of India for 30 bore holes of the same type in Namibia.

[*Translation*]

Handloom Sector

4099. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of production of handloom items during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the number of handloom weavers provided employment during 1993-94 and 1994-95 through Centrally sponsored schemes;

(c) the countries to whom handloom products are being exported; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned through the exports of handloom items during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The estimated overall production in the handloom sector during 1993-94 and 1994-95 was as under :

Year	Quantity (in Million Square Metres)
1993-94	5851
1994-95	6028

(b) Employment figures under all Centrally sponsored schemes is not maintained by the Government. However, the overall employment during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is estimated to be as under :-

Year	Lakh Persons
1993-94	124.82
1994-95	128.60

(c) The countries to whom handloom products are exported are U.S.A., Japan, Germany, Denmark, Norway, France, Sweden, Australia etc.

(d) The value of exports of cotton handloom products are estimated as under :-

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1992-93	1034
1993-94	1297
1994-95	1500
(Provisional)	

[*English*]

Winding up of spices Trading Corporation

4100. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to wind up the Spices Trading Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether the Spices Trading Corporation Limited have stopped purchases of spices;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Asian Development Bank Loan

4101. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has approved loan for development of India's domestic capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the loan amount is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ADB has approved a Capital Market Development Programme Loan of \$ 250 million on 28th November, 1995. The purpose of the loan is to facilitate long term development of India's capital market through modernising the existing infrastructure of the capital market as well as strengthening market regulations and supervision mechanism and continuing reforms in the capital market.

[English]

National Security Depository System

4102. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Securities Depository System has been implemented;

(b) if not, the main hurdles noticed in its implementation; and

(c) the steps being taken for its early implementation and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The Depositories Bill, 1995 which provides a legal framework for establishment of depositories to enable record as well as transfer of ownership of securities in a book entry form has been passed by the Lok Sabha and has been forwarded to Rajya Sabha for consideration and passing. Towards implementation, SEBI has already circulated a consultative paper for framing draft regulations for setting up of depositories.

Pension to Retired Industrial Employees

4103. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide pension for the retired industrial employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of industries which have adopted the pension scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of the scheme by all the industries fully?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Government has since framed and notified a pension scheme namely the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 for all the EPF subscribers. The scheme has come into force w.e.f. 16.11.1995. The Scheme

inter-alia provides for payment of monthly pension in the contingencies of superannuation, retirement, death, permanent total disablement etc. Minimum 10 years' contributory Service is necessary for being entitled to pension. Normal superannuation pension on completion of 33 years contributory service will be equivalent to 50% of the average pensionable salary of the last 12 months. The minimum amount of family pension is Rs.450/- P.M. In addition, there is also a provision for payment of pension to two children subject to the minimum of Rs.115/- per child.

(c) and (d) The pension scheme is applicable to all 177 industries covered under the EPF & MP Act, 1952. Necessary steps as provided under the Act/Scheme are being taken by the EPF authorities for proper implementation of the new pension scheme.

[Translation]

Identification of Backward Areas in Rajasthan

4104. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of Rajasthan included in the list of backward areas by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) ;

(b) whether the Government propose to conduct the survey in this regard afresh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has not identified any area in Rajasthan as a backward area. However, NABARD has identified certain Districts in Rajasthan, where the tribal population is predominant, for the sanction of a separate short-term credit limit for financing tribals for their Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) requirements.

Textile Dyeing Units

4105. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dyeing units in Maharashtra which is using vegetable colours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also taken a decision in regard to open some more such units in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.