

- (iii) Introduction of modern methods of beneficiation to give better yield of washed coal.
- (iv) Amalgamation of smaller mines into larger units. Such reconstruction will release considerable amount of coal which would have been lost in the barriers.
- (v) Utilisation of washery rejects for power generation and for stowing in the underground mines.
- (vi) Increased use of sand/crushed stones for conservation and safety. This will also result in greater recovery of insitu coal from the underground mine.
- (vii) R and D projects have been taken up to economise coking coal consumption in steel plants.

[*Translation*]

Growth of Powerlooms Danger to Handloom Sector

5135. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the growth of powerlooms secretly is likely to pose a danger to the organised handloom sector in the long run;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to check their growth; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The powers to detect unauthorised powerlooms and to proceed against persons responsible for operating unauthorised powerlooms are available with the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act.

[*English*]

Promotion of SC/ST Sub-ordinate Staff to Clerical Cadre in New Delhi Branches of State Bank of India

5136. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether relaxation of two years in experience for promotion from subordinate staff to clerical cadre available to the subordinate staff belonging to SC/ST communities, has been abolished in the New Delhi local head office, branches and offices of State Bank of India; and

(b) If so, the reasons for withdrawing this concession ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In terms of the existing Government guidelines, reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees does not apply to a cadre to which direct recruitment is 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % or more. State Bank of India has reported that direct recruitment to the clerical cadre in that bank is more than the aforesaid percentage. The reservation in promotion from subordinate cadre to the clerical cadre is, therefore, not applicable to this cadre. As there is no reservation the question of allowing relaxation does not arise.

Production of Tobacco and its Prices

5137. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tobacco produced in each State during 1984-85;

(b) the guidelines followed in fixing minimum export prices for tobacco;

(c) the guidelines followed in fixing minimum support prices for tobacco to be purchased from tobacco growers; and

(d) the details of minimum export prices for different grades of tobacco and the details of minimum support prices for corresponding grades of tobacco for the current season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The final estimate of production of tobacco statewide during 1984-85 is not yet available. The break-up of production of tobacco during 1983-84 in the major states is as follows :—