

## Statement

(Quantity in Tonnes)

Year	State	Arabica (Plantation Cherry)	Robusta	Total
1983-84	Karnataka	55,700	23,635	79,335
	Tamil Nadu	13,305	2,210	15,515
	Kerala	1,110	8,445	9,555
	Andhra Pradesh	525	5	530
	Other India	60	5	65
	All India	70,700	34,300	105,000
*1984-85	Karnataka	66,905	61,085	127,990
	Tamil Nadu	10,510	3,975	14,485
	Kerala	1,965	44,915	46,880
	Andhra Pradesh	460	15	475
	Other India	160	10	170
	All India	80,000	110,000	190,000

\*Estimated.

**Replacement of Blast Furnaces in Bokaro Steel Plant**

2919. SHRI V. SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the average life of a blast furnace in steel plants;

(b) when the existing blast furnaces were installed in the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(c) in the event of the blast furnaces having outlived their lives, what action is taken to replace the old ones by new ones;

(d) whether these furnaces are not manufactured in the country;

(e) if so, the number of furnaces required and when was the action initiated to import these blast furnaces;

(f) whether some furnaces are kept in the reserve against emergency and the number thereof; and

(g) amount of loss likely to be suffered due to use of old furnaces ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The average life of a blast furnace in a steel plant depends on its maintenance, operational practices, technology, availability of spares etc.

(b) The commissioning dates of the five blast furnaces in the Bokaro Steel Plant are :

Blast Furnace No. 1	3-10-72
Blast Furnace No. 2	12-4-76
Blast Furnace No. 3	26-2-78
Blast Furnace No. 4	27-5-81
Blast Furnace No. 5	9-6-85

(c) No blast furnace at Bokaro has outlived its life. When this happens the blast furnace is rebuilt.

(d) and (e). We have indigenous capabilities of fabricating and erecting blast furnaces. This may require a small amount of foreign exchange for import of components or refractories not readily available in the country.

(f) and (g). No blast furnace is kept in reserve against an emergency and as such no loss is suffered on this account.

#### **Crisis in Powerloom Industry under New Textiles Policy**

2920. SHRI P. R. KUMARA-MANGALAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the basis on which the powerloom have been equated with mills in the textiles policy especially when many of the single loom power-looms are owned by small weavers and can in any way appear to be mills; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure that the powerloom industry does not face the crisis similar to handloom industry consequent to the new Textile policy and the other restrictions being imposed on the powerloom industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). In the weaving sector, the composite mills and the powerlooms have their own respective strengths and weaknesses. There has been an unplanned growth of powerlooms in the unorganised sector in the recent past. In order to restore health to the textile industry, it has been decided to treat the powerlooms in the mill sector and powerlooms in the unorganised sector at par, as far as possible, for the purpose of policy. The powerlooms in the unorganised sector are not expected to face crisis consequent to the new textile policy.

#### **Ad Hoc subsidy to Handloom Weavers**

2921. SHRI P. R. KUMARA-MANGALAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of subsidy that the Union Government and the State

Governments are giving to handloom weavers especially to Khadi weavers;

(b) the stage at this subsidy is given;

(c) whether the subsidy is given in order that it reaches the weavers; and

(d) considering the fact that the averages handloom weavers and specially the Khadi weaver's economic conditions have not improved the steps being taken by Government to ensure that the subsidies reach the weavers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). For the handloom sector financial assistance is given by Central and State Governments on matching basis for modernisation of handlooms out of which  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd is given by way of subsidy. Besides, special rebate at the rate of 20% is given for retail sale of handloom fabrics, which is shared equally by the Central and State Governments. In addition subsidy at the rate of rupees two per square metre is also given for sale of janata cloth at fixed prices. The entire subsidy on janata cloth is borne by Government of India. The quantum of rebate and janata subsidy during 1984-85 was Rs. 14.45 crores and Rs. 58.28 crores, respectively. The quantum of subsidy on modernisation paid by Central Government was Rs. 29.70 lakhs.

For the Khadi sector, rebate on retail sales of Khadi is given by Central Government and the total assistance under this Head during 1984-85 was Rs. 21.23 crores.

(c) and (d). The special rebate, both in the handloom and khadi sectors, is a marketing assistance as it helps liquidation of stocks and in turn generates more demand. It thus provides more employment and greater earnings. The janata subsidy is basically consumer oriented since the products, which are meant for poorer sections of the population, are sold to the consumers at prices less than the cost prices. However, the weavers get more sustained employment an account of this scheme. The modernisation subsidy directly benefits the weavers and helps them in modernising their looms to improve their productivity as well as earnings.