

Export of handicrafts

507. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of handicrafts during the current financial year is likely to hit the target of Rs. 2000 crores as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 1 February, 1987;

(b) if so, the target fixed for the coming year; and

(c) whether steps are also being taken to popularise handicrafts within the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The provisional figures of exports of handicrafts including gem and jewellery from India during the period 1985-86 and April-December, 1986-87 are given as under :—

1985-86	Rs. 1879.97 crores
1986-87	
(April-December)	Rs. 1781.62 crores
1985-86	
(April-December)	Rs. 1361.40 crores

(b) Rs. 2200 crores for the year 1987-1988; and

(c) The steps being taken are given in the statement below.

Statement

(a) Financial assistance is being provided to the Handicrafts Development Corporations set up by the State Governments, to open sales outlets in different parts of the country.

(2) State Handicrafts Corporations/apex co-operative societies and voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to organise

exhibitions, fairs and festivals to popularise handicrafts in the domestic market.

(3) Product Promotion Programmes and Market Meets are regularly organised in different parts of the country to make handicrafts artisans more market conscious.

(4) Handicrafts Week is celebrated every year in December during which a special rebate of 5% is allowed on the purchases of handicrafts items.

(5) Publicity of Indian handicrafts in the country is undertaken through different media on regular basis.

Arms licences obtained by Delhi residents from neighbouring States.

508. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether some Delhi residents have been found guilty of obtaining arms licences from the neighbouring States and if so, their number during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : During 1986, the Delhi police detected 244 cases of residents of Delhi having obtained arms licences from the neighbouring States. 180 licences had been procured from Haryana, 61 from Punjab and 3 from Rajasthan. No such case has come to notice during 1985.

Concessions to foreign tourists

509. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA ; Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes in which ITDC/Ministry of Tourism have sought concessions for the tourists and tourist spots in the country from different

Departments during the last two years to attract tourists; and

(b) whether any guidelines are proposed to be issued to ensure that concessions are granted only for such foreign tourist promotion schemes like students, sportsmen and legislators who generally need them and are encouraged to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) and (b) In the last two or three years the Ministry of Tourism has been generally trying to secure for tourism from various other Ministries and from the State Governments the status of an industry, especially an export oriented industry and the various facilities, incentives or concessions which are applicable for export oriented industry. Following declaring tourism as an industry by the National Development Council, nine State Governments have declared tourism as an industry and three State Governments have declared hotel as an industry. Also term loans by the Financial Institutions have been made available for hotel industry.

The Government have launched several schemes to attract tourists from overseas. These include "India on the House" to promote stop-over tours by transitting passengers; "Affordable India" offering concessional air fares during lean season; promotion of charters to selected destinations.

The Department of Tourism has requested for simplification of procedure for issue of visa to foreign tourists and entry formalities at the airports; provision of adequate number of seats on major tourist routes on Indian Airlines and Railways; augmentation of appropriate surface tourist transport; extension of certain concessions/incentives to various segments of travel industry so that the tourist in turn benefits. All these schemes incorporate necessary guidelines to ensure that concessions/benefits are used for the purpose for which these are meant. However, there are no schemes exclusively for students, sportsmen and legislators.

[Translation]

Export promotion to gulf, African and South American countries

510. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any long-term comprehensive scheme has been prepared by Government to promote export to Gulf, African and South American countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to exploit vast potential of export from India to these countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) No long term comprehensive export Promotion Schemes have been prepared for Gulf and South American Countries. However, a plan for coordinated effort to promote exports to selected sub-Saharan Countries was prepared some time ago. It covered activities like participation in fairs/Exhibition, interaction between trade bodies etc.

(c) To promote exports several measures such as participation in fairs/exhibition sponsoring trade delegations; establishing bilateral trading arrangements etc. are being undertaken.

[English]

Disease named 'Uzzi' affecting mulberry

511. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that the disease called "Uzzi or Usee" is greatly affecting the quality and quantity of silk worm rearing on mulberry leaves; and

(b) whether any research has been