

[English]

Premium Rates of Insurance

43. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the authorities who decides the premium rates and conditions of insurance; and

(b) the power of Tariff Advisory Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC), established under section 64 U of the Insurance Act, 1938 is the authority to control and regulate the rates, advantages, terms and conditions that may be offered by insurers in respect general insurance business.

In terms of section 64UC of the Insurance Act, 1938 the TAC may from time to time and to the extent it deems expedient control and regulate the rates, advantages, terms and conditions that may be offered by insurers in respect of any risk or of any class or category of risks, the rates, advantages, terms and conditions of which, in its opinion rates, advantages, terms and conditions shall be binding on all insurers.

Decline In Foreign Trade

44. SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR.
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO.
SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both the exports and imports have drastically declined during 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of short-fall of both exports and imports during 1996;

(c) whether any concrete programme has been drawn up after having discussions and making sector-wise assessment of the reasons for the poor performance on the foreign trade front ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the main target set for the import and exports during 1996 and to what extent it fell short?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). As per DGCI&S data, exports during April-Dec. 1996 are estimated at US \$ 24204.83 million representing a growth of 6.36% over the export level valued at US \$ 22757.31 million for the same period last year. Imports during April – Dec. 1996 are estimated at US \$ 27452.39 million which is 4.41% higher than the level of US \$ 26292.17 million for the same period last year.

(c) and (d). Export performance is influenced, *inter-alia*, by international market conditions infrastructure, policy framework etc. Export promotion is a continuous ex-

ercise by the Government through simplification of policy and procedures for providing export friendly environment involvement of States in export promotion consultation with export organisations trade and industry to tackle general as well as sector specific problems for initiation of appropriate remedial measures from time to time.

At the beginning of the year 1996-97 it was envisaged that export would grow by 18-20% over the level of exports of the previous year. Having regard to the performance during the year its is felt that exports in the full year might be lower than originally anticipated. No targets are fixed for imports.

[Translation]

Funds for Handloom Co-operative Societies

45. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Handlooms Co-operative Societies functioning at present in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided to them by the Union Government during the last year; and

(c) The schemes under which assistance is being given to them alongwith the guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA). (a) There are 4817 Handloom Co-operative Societies functioning at present in Uttar Pradesh as reported by the State Government

(b) and (c) Financial assistance is provided by the Government of India to all the Handloom Organisations including Co-operative Societies on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments. Funds released under various on-going programmes to Government of Uttar Pradesh as a whole alongwith guidelines are as under:

(i) *Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit*: Funds provided under the scheme are to redress the important problems faced by the handloom weavers like supply of yarn of requisite count, lack of quality dyeing facility, training in dyeing practices, marketing facilities, working capital, design development etc. During the year 1995-96, a sum of Rs. 140.13 lakhs had been released to the state Government of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme for setting up of 7 Handloom Development Centres and 8 Quality Dyeing Units.

(ii) *Project Package Scheme*: In order to provide component-wise set of need based support and to enable accrual of benefit physically available to weavers the Government of India introduced Project Package Scheme under which Rs.42.35 lakhs had been released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for 5 Projects during 1995-96.

(iii) *Integrated Handloom Village Development* : To provide all types of facilities in terms of skill upgradation, productivity, infrastructure and to give concerted and special attention to languishing and traditional crafts, the