

expansion of area, development of technology in post harvest processing and marketing, improving productivity through rejuvenation, replanting and new planting, adoption of integrated pest control practices, establishment of regional nurseries, establishment of model clonal gardens, establishment of demonstration plots of high yielding varieties, production and distribution of vegetatively propagated planting materials, establishment and maintenance of clone seed gardens, financial assistance for organising marketing and processing, production of high yielding varieties of seeds, distribution of minikits, improved irrigation and development of efficient water management system, production of breeder seeds, distribution of foundation and certified seeds, distribution of sprinkler sets, improved farm implements and plant protection equipments and establishment of nurseries

#### **Plightness of Handloom Weavers**

2096. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of handloom weavers of Madurai in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation in the matter;

(c) whether the matter has been referred for queries to the Government of Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of Tamil Nadu Government; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Yes. Sir.

(d) The Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that due to general recession in industry, Handloom Sector has also been affected by accumulation of stocks. The State Government had, therefore, announced some relief measures for handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu, including Madurai which, inter-alia, include 10% additional rebate on the sale of handloom cloth by Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies and Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd. (COOPTEx) for a period of three months in addition to the 20% rebate, procurement of handloom cloth worth Rs.50.00 crores by COOPTEx, purchase of handloom cloth by Govt. Departments/Undertakings directly from COOPTEx and Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies, implementation of the Tamil Nadu Handloom Workers (Conditions of Employment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1981, extending the credit facilities to the weavers under NABARD refinance Scheme etc.

(e) The Government of Tamil Nadu had taken timely and adequate relief measures. Moreover, the Government of India has released Rs.12.94 crores to COOPTEx and Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies as Market Development Assistance during the current financial year till date.

#### **Bacteria and Viruses in Imported Soyabean**

2097. RAO INDERJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Experts warn against imported Soyabean" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated August 24, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the food exports has warned not to use soyabean imported from United State since it contains bacteria and viruses;

(c) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to cancel such consignments and/or propose to send back, the infected Soyabean; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (e) The Government have decided to allow import of soyabean either in split or cracked form subject to the plant quarantine conditions. Consignments not meeting the plant quarantine conditions and other human, animal and plant safety norms would be appropriately dealt with by the authorities through measures including but not limited to, denial of entry at the port of disembarkment and/or reshipment.

#### **Import of Onion Seeds**

2098. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :  
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to import onion seeds for distribution to the farmers during the next season; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries from which onion seeds are to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The Ministry of Agriculture have informed that no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) the question does not arise.

#### **Non-resident Indian Forum**

2099. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :  
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a non-resident Indian forum in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NRIs are not enthused despite several concessions offered to them; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?