

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Export obligation arises under different schemes in several ways. Most Companies obtain several licences annually under different schemes and default in export performance in respect of some of these licences. The data is therefore maintained licence-wise and not company-wise.

(c) and (d) Action against defaulters in Export Obligation is taken regularly under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. Such action includes cancellation or suspension of the licence, imposition of fiscal penalty, and in extreme cases, suspensions/cancellation of Importers and Exporters Code Number.

[Translation]

Production of Cotton

2176. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production position in the cotton mills set up in the Country is satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the amount earmarked for Technological Upgradation of Cotton Mills was proposed to be spent on priority basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The details of production of cotton yarn and cotton cloth by mills are given below:

Year	Cotton Yarn Production (Mn. Kg)	Cotton cloth Production (Mn. Sq.Mtrs.)
1995-96	1,894	1,159
1996-97	2,148	1,222
1997-98	2,213	1,238
1998-99 (Apr.-June)	489.41	280.30

The position is considered satisfactory.

(d) and (e) The proposal to set up a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is yet to be approved.

[English]

Credit Policy

2177. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to improve credit policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it is likely to help in economic revival?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had forwarded to Reserve Bank of India a number of suggestions for inclusion in the statement of the Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for 1998-99 released on October 30, 1998.

(b) It was suggested by the FICCI that credit policy should be used as a demand stimulator with a view to reviving the economy by providing credit to the commercial as well as distribution sector. Other suggestions made were in the areas of streamlining credit delivery, group approach to lending, reduction in the lending rate, lowering of the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), credit to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), establishment of bench mark rate and introduction of hedging instruments, interest tax etc. Such suggestions are duly considered by RBI in the formulation of policies. The credit requirements of the real sector could be adequately met in view of comfortable liquidity in the banking system.

[Translation]

Cheating of Foreign Tourists

2178. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Agra mein Vishakat bhojan Karakar thagi ka dhanda joron par" published in the "Navbharat Times" dated November 15, 1998;

(b) the number of foreign and Indian tourists who have become victims of cheating so far;

(c) whether the Government have taken proper action to safeguard tourists from these cheats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (d) Information has been sought from Government of U.P. in this regard.

Amount of Central Loan

2179. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the amount of Central loan pending as on April 1, 1997 and April 1, 1998, State-wise;