

(c) Fifteen products have been identified for undertaking special export promotion efforts so as to increase export of Indian goods to foreign markets including UK. Some of the other supporting measures in this direction include participation in international trade fairs, intensified exchange of business delegations, supply of necessary information and extending necessary facilities to commercial organisations, setting up of warehousing facilities, promotion of joint ventures etc.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

1122. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'Nidar' :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open showrooms of the products manufactured by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in foreign countries keeping in view the increased demand of its products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of the countries where such showrooms are being opened?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government has not decided to open showrooms of the products manufactured by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in foreign countries.

(b) Does not arise.

Devolution of Resources to States

1123. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Ministry Supports finance panel's views" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated January 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether his ministry has fully recommended the Tenth Finance Commission's alternative schemes for devolution of resources to States;

(d) the views expressed by the State Governments in this regard;

(e) the total recommendations made by the Tenth Finance Commission; and

(f) the details of recommendations out of them accepted by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) As a follow up action on Finance Minister's Budget Speech on 22nd July, 1996, a Discussion Paper or the Alternative Scheme of Devolution recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission was brought out and laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament on 20th December, 1996 and copies were circulated to the Hon'ble Members of the Parliament. The matter was placed before the Inter-State Council on 15-1-1997 and is under their consideration.

Investment by PSUs in UTI

1124. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lift ban on Public Sector Undertakings for investing their funds into UTI Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith modalities of investment;

(c) to what extent it is likely to be helpful;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the details of the PSUs which have been identified for the said investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) The Government have removed on 14.2.97, the restrictions on investment of funds by all PSUs in the units/schemes of UTI. This would enable UTI to manage surplus funds of PSUs in a relatively safe manner with an attractive yield. The UTI units are recognised as eligible securities under Indian Trust Act 1882 and the regulatory frame work of SEBI.

External Commercial Borrowings Loan

1125. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of External Commercial Borrowings loans sanctioned by the Government so far;

(b) which sector has got the maximum amount sanctioned;

(c) the names of the Companies alongwith their respective interests in which they have received approvals;

(d) the number of applications received by the Government for External Commercial Borrowings loans during the last three years; and

(e) the criteria adopted and time taken to clear these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Proposals aggregating to USD 8333.392 million have been sanctioned by the Government during the current financial year upto 21st February, 1997.