

of handloom cloth to make it more competitive. Moreover all mills producing yarn are required to pack at least 50% of their marketable yarn in the form of hanks for supply to handloom sector. Financial assistance is also being given by Central and State Governments for setting up handloom weavers cooperative spinning mills to act as captive source for supply of hank yarn to the handloom sector.

(b) and (c) The figures of production and exports for 1984 are not yet available. However the production and exports for the financial years 1982-83 and 1983-84 are given below :

<b>Production :</b>	
1982-83	3253 million metres
1983-84 (Provisional)	3400 million metres
1984-85 (target)	3700 million metres.

The figures of production are derived from the civil deliveries of hank yarn by the mills.

**Exports :**

1982-83	Rs. 330.89 crores
1983-84 (Provisional)	Rs. 309.39 crores
1984-85 (target)	Rs. 408.00 crores

(d) In order to increase the export of handloom cloth, Vishwakarma exhibitions, Market Orientation Tours, Buyer-Seller Meets, Participation in International Fairs/Exhibitions etc., are being periodically sponsored by the Government. The programme for 1985-86 is being worked out.

**Sanction of Rupees Thirty Crores to Tripura as Recommended by 8th Finance Commission**

\*50 SHRI AJOY BISWAS Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the union Government are aware that due to non-implementation of the recommendation of 8th Finance Commission for the year

1984-85, the Tripura Government will not get Rs 30 crores as special assistance ; and

(b) considering the backwardness of Tripura, whether Government propose to Commission for 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHAWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) The Government have not accepted the recommendations of Finance Commission contained in the final report for the year 1984-85. The question of non-implementation of that report for the year 1984-85 therefore does not arise.

(b) No Sir, However, in view of the backwardness of the State, Central assistance of Rs. 82.47 crores was allocated to the State in the current year for executing a Plan of Rs. 68 crores.

**Exports to USA Affected by Rising Value of Dollars**

\*51 SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government consider that Indian exports to USA will be adversely affected by the rising value of dollar ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps like giving more cash subsidies for other export items particularly hit by the steep rise in dollar value ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Appreciation of the US dollar would make Indian exports more competitive and should not adversely affect our exports to the U.S.A.

(b) Does not arise.

**Coal Shortage in West Bengal**

\*52 SHRI SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the coal shortage in different parts of West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken or proposed to be taken to remove the coal shortage.

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :** (a) to (c) As far as supply of raw coal to the consumers in West Bengal is concerned, there is no shortage. Coal is being supplied to linked consumers in adequate quantities both by rail and by road. Consumers have also been permitted to draw by road, shortfall in their rail programmes, if they so desire. However due to some shortfall in production on account of early and heavy rains during 1984-85, there were difficulties in meeting the full requirements of soft coke and hard coke of consumers in West Bengal. Action was taken to step up production and despatches of soft coke and hard coke from July '84 onwards, and there has been a significant improvement in the supplies. As against 5,01,700 tonnes of soft coke supplied to West Bengal during April '83 to February '84, 6,11,014 tonnes have been supplied during the same period in 1984-85.

#### Export of Hand-Made Paintings from Bihar

\*53. **SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH :** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the handicrafts from Bihar particularly hand-made paintings are very much in demand in foreign countries ;

(b) if so the names of the countries importing these paintings at present ;

(c) whether Government propose to explore new markets for the promotion of export of handicrafts ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):**

(a) State-wise export statistics are

not available. However, as per latest data, exports of hand-made paintings from India are as under : —

	(In Rs. lakhs)
1980-81	51.24
1981-82	74.61
1982-83) (April-November)	31.19

(b) The major countries importing hand-made paintings from India are U.K., Netherlands, USA, USSR; Italy, France and west Germany.

(c), Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) Exhibitions of handicrafts are proposed to be organised in the USA and France as part of Festival of India.

(ii) India Promotion programme is being organised in West Germany in April-May 1985 during which live demonstration of handicrafts are being presented.

(iii) A selling outlet for hand-made carpets is being opened in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

(iv) Promotional programmes for handicrafts are being organised in the Middle East under which an exhibition has been held in Doha and another is proposed in Kuwait.

[Translation]

#### Racketeering in Rag Trade.

\*54. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state :

(a) Whether his attention has been drawn to the press reports relating to large scale racketeering in rag trade ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by his Ministry to check such racketeering?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):**

(a) yes, Sir.