

the export of cotton seed extractions; and

[English]

(b) if so, the measures taken or being taken to boost their export?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cash Compensatory Support at 10% of the FOB value is allowed on export of Cotton seed extraction.

[Translation]

Handloom Development Project in Rajasthan

*470. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have selected Rajasthan under the International Fund for Agriculture Development Programme;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have sanctioned a Handloom Development Project under the said scheme to increase the employment opportunities and the woolen handloom production in desert districts of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details of the said scheme;

(d) the amount provided for the said scheme and the number of the poor weavers to be benefited thereby; and

(e) when the scheme is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Cost of Steel Production

*472. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost and selling price of steel produced in the country compare favourably with that of steel produced in Japan, USA and other countries;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) As no authentic information on the cost of production of steel in other countries is available, it is not possible to compare the cost of production in these countries with India. The domestic price of steel in India and abroad are however broadly similar.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken/being taken by the main producers to contain the cost of production in India include raising capacity utilisation, increasing productivity, improving techno-economic performance including energy saving, and improved maintenance and modernisation of equipment.

Instant Tea discovered by National Dairy Research Institute

*473. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Research Institute, which was set up for R & D and Training work for dairy development, has now discovered instant tea after its