

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to lift the ban on Shahtoosh weaving.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The book describes the findings of an investigating team into the illegal trade in Shahtoosh, and results of a socio-economic survey to determine the extent of impact of the ban on Shahtoosh trade on the Shahtoosh handweaving cottage industry.

(e) Shahtoosh Shawl is made of Shahtoosh, superfine wool obtained from the underbelly fur of Tibetan Antelope or 'Chiru'. The only way to obtain Shahtoosh is to kill three to five Antelopes to get the sufficient wool for one shawl.

(f) and (g) The Chiru is listed in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and trade in Shahtoosh is prohibited in India.

JPM Act, 1987

2332. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 has lapsed as Government did not issue a fresh order in the wake of a stay order by the Calcutta High Court; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's decision on the question of issuing a new order in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No Sir. The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 has not lapsed.

(b) The compulsory packaging order issued on 01.09.2001 under the JPM Act and modified on 01.03.2002 was valid upto 30.6.2002. Fresh orders were to be issued by Government on 01.07.2002. However, the High Court at Calcutta *vide* its orders dated 25.4.2002 in a writ petition no. T 235 of 2002 filed by Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) & Others,

directed the Government not to proceed further till the matter is decided by the Court. On 15.5.2002, the High Court modified its orders dated 25.4.2002 to the extent that the Central Government was allowed to take the decision in respect thereto, but the said decision could not be given effect without the leave of the court. Accordingly, the appropriate authority in the Government took a decision on 11.6.2002 based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, with some modifications. The said decision of the Government was notified on 12.7.2002 after the leave of the Hon'ble High Court. The notification dated 12.7.2002 was challenged by the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) and others in another writ petition no. T 394 of 2002 in High Court at Calcutta. The High Court on 17.7.2002 directed the Government not to give effect to the notification dated 12.7.2002. On 19.7.2002, while hearing both these writ petitions (T 235 and T 394 of 2002) the High Court observed that it will be desirable for the Central Government to look into the matter and if possible try to follow the notification dated 1.9.2001 in the mean time. Final orders of the High Court are awaited.

Effects of National Textile Policy in export and employment

†2333. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state to what extent permanent employment and export have increased so far after the announcement of National Textile Policy in November, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): National Textile Policy, 2000 was announced in November 2000. Total textile exports during the year 2000-01 were worth Rs.2,01,35,645 lakh. As on 31st March, 2002 the figure stood at Rs.2,07,74,556 lakh. The employment in cotton/man-made fibre textile mills and powerloom industry as on 31st March, 2001 was 52 lakh 31 thousand. As on 30th June, 2002 the figure stood at 52 lakh 43 thousand.

In addition, there has been employment generation in handloom, handicrafts and other sectors related with textiles which because of its decentralised nature cannot be assessed and quantified. However, it is estimated that employment in the total textiles sector would have grown at the rate of 1.74 per cent per annum.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.