

(c) whether it is a fact that the economic status of carpet sector workers has not improved in the last two decades; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve the living standard of weavers in the carpet sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have undertaken an All India Census of Handicrafts artisans including Carpet industry weavers, which, when completed, would *inter-alia* provide information on the geographical distribution of Carpet industry weavers in the country.

(c) Data on economic status of Carpet sector workers for last two decades is not available with the Government.

(d) To improve the living standard of weavers in the Carpet sector, the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government include: construction of workshed-cum-housing; health package; group insurance etc. -

Institute of Carpet Technology of Bhadohi

1636. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH
'SURYA':

SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Institute of Carpet Technology of Bhadohi in U.P. has not yet started functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For setting up of the Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh, construction of building and providing of infrastructural facilities etc., has been completed. However, presently, approval of Revised Cost Estimate of the project and buying and installation of plants and equipments etc., is in prog-

Modernisation of Textile Mills Under NTC

1637. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to modernise textile mills under the control of National Textile Corporation; and

(b) if so, the number of mills to be modernised and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Govt. is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Diversification/Marketing of Jute

1638. SHRI DIPANKAR

MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 1689 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th August, 1997 and state:

(a) The total amount spent till date alongwith matching grant by Government, year-wise;

(b) the name of the organisations, whether Government or NGO, with details of the project allocation from UNDP as well as the matching grant of Government of India; and

(c) The results, so far, achieved, project-wise, in quantifiable terms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The total amount spent on implementation of various projects under National Jute Programme from UNDP funds amounted to US \$ 19.53 million as on 31.05.98. The matching contribution from

Govt. of India amounted to Rs. 36.67 Crores as on 31.3.98.

A statement indicating the yearwise allocation for various projects from UNDP and GOI funds is enclosed at Annexure- [See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 54]

(c) The National Jute Programme with UNDP assistance has contributed towards jute diversification in various ways by implementation of various schemes to improve productivity for welfare of jute farmers, Textile and non-textile applications like development of innovative spinning systems for jute/jute blends, new processing techniques for fibre treatment, substitution of jute in wood products and paper making, thermo-setting composite, geo-textiles and non-toxic fibre lubricants, bio-technological applications to improve quality of fibre. The programme has also helped to promote employment opportunities through Human Resource Development and also contributed in increasing export, both of yarn and jute products from Rs. 760 million and Rs. 87 million in 1992-93 to Rs. 1343 million and 630 million respectively in 1996-97.

Revival Plan for NTC/NJMC Mills in West Bengal

1639. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4240 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th May, 1997 and state:

(a) the present status of revival plan of NTC and NJMC units referred to BIFR; and

(b) the action plan to pay statutory dues to workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Govt. on the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the network of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be

kept in view in the revival plan.

The revised plan for NJMC is also before the Govt. for consideration.

(b) on account of acute shortage of working capital the statutory dues of NTC/NJMC workers/employees have fallen into arrears. The statutory dues will be cleared as and when funds become available.

Carpet Industry Units Using Spun Silk Yarn

1640. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of carpet industry units using spun silk yarn in their production;

(b) what is the total requirement of spun silk yarn by this industry;

(c) whether the industry is getting sufficient spun silk yarn for the productions; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No such statistical data is being maintained. However, there are nearly 700 Exporters exporting silk carpets from the country. (b) to (d) The total requirement of spun silk yarn in the carpet industry is estimated at 4 lakhs Kgs. per annum, which is met through indigeneous production and shortfall, if any, can be met through imports of spun silk yarn under the advance licensing scheme.

Unscrupulous Business of Silk by China

1641. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that China has started unscrupulous business in silk waste trade with India;

(b) what is the effect of this unhealthy trade on the spun silk industry and silk production; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?