

(c) what steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government on the various impediments brought out by the C & AG in his report on the functioning of the Central Silk Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) The important recommendations made by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in its review on the working of the Central Silk Board are as under:—

- (i) There is a need to revise the existing financial powers of the Board.
- (ii) Setting up of zonal offices of the Board may be considered for maintaining close coordination with State Governments.
- (iii) Periodical review of the research activities of the Board may be undertaken with a view to fix priorities and avoid duplication.
- (iv) Necessary measures need to be taken to attain the targets of training of farmers/reelers and to obtain a feedback on the results of training.
- (v) Emphasis should be laid on promoting the adoption of bivoltine silkworm races in selected areas,

The above recommendations have been taken note of for consideration and appropriate action. The Central Silk Board has been directed to ensure that the Scientific Advisory Committees may meet at regular intervals to review the progress of research projects. The Board has also been directed to intensify its efforts to achieve the targets of training and to obtain regular feedback on the results of the same. Similarly, greater emphasis will be laid on promoting the adoption of bivoltine silkworm races in selected areas.

Recommendations of Abid Hussain Committee

1572. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Abid Hussain Committee on review of the 1985 Textile Policy has recommended that Support for Handloom Weavers should be universal and not based on membership of corporate or cooperative bodies" ;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

ic) whether Government have received any representation requesting for the implementing of the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee and the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) it was decided that the co-operative coverage in the handloom sector should be increased and at the same time, support to handloom weavers would also be available to weavers outside co-operative wherever it is practically possible to do so. Government accordingly modified some of the schemes presently implemented in the handloom sector.

(c) A representation dated 5th November 1993 had been received from Shri Pragada Kotaiah, MP and a reply sent on 7th December, 1993.

Silk Production in Karnataka

1573. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of silk in Karnataka is suffering due to the stringent regulations of the State Government on the corporate sector projects ; and

(b) whether the Central Government have requested the State Government to modify the regulations ?