

(c) whether the Fourth Pay Commission has made any recommendation in this regard; if so what are the details thereof; and

(d) what follow-up action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Demands of handloom weavers from Andhra Pradesh

1045. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of weavers from Andhra Pradesh met the Prime Minister on the 5th April, 1989 and pleaded for extending some concessions to them and also pleaded for extending some welfare measures for them; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

Statement

The memorandum relates *inter alia* to formulation of a textile policy which could ensure full and continuous employment with reasonable living wages to handloom weavers, preserve, protect and promote the

handloom industry, save it from the menace of mushroom growth of powerlooms, ensure supply of yarn at reasonable prices etc.

The Textile Policy of 1985 has enunciated a number of steps to preserve the unique role of handlooms and also to ensure higher earnings for the handlooms weavers. Action has been taken on the steps enunciated in the Textile Policy, *viz.*, development of handlooms through co-operatives and corporations, modernisation of looms, supply of inputs through NHDC, production of mixed and blended fabrics under Susman Cloth Scheme, reservation of 22 items for exclusive; production by handlooms, design support and technological inputs to improve the competitiveness of handloom products, implementation of Thrift Fund Scheme and Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, etc. In addition, certain fiscal concessions are also extended to the handloom sector to enable it to compete with the products of mills and powerlooms. The Central Government is also implementing a package of schemes for the development of handloom sector in all the States.

Grievances of Tobacco Growers

1046. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to redress the grievances of tobacco growers;

(b) what measures are being taken to maintain stability in the prices of tobacco;

(c) whether Government propose to consult farmers in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The grievances of tobacco growers, mainly re-

late to decline in the prices at the tobacco auctions. The STC has been requested to step into the market and buy grades of tobacco as a part of their commercial operations.

(c) and (d) Farmers have been given representation on the Tobacco Board and its Regional Committees and their views are always taken.

Role of State Bank of Indore in the sale and distribution of Lottery tickets

1047. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in 'Jansatta', a Hindi Daily published from New Delhi on the 5th March, 1989 about the sale and distribution of lottery tickets worth of Rs. 24 crores in Indore;

(b) whether Government have ascertained the role of State Bank of Indore in the sale of those lottery tickets; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have seen the news item referred to in the Question.

(b) and (c) According to State Bank of Indore, a circular was issued from the Head Office to its 162 branches and 2 Zonal Office in May, 1985 to sell lottery tickets on behalf of Indore Table Tennis Trust to help them in raising funds for construction of Table Tennis Stadium at Indore. The total value of lottery tickets sold by Bank's various branches was Rs. 4,19,680/-.

Involvement of Manipur Legislators in drug Trafficking

1048. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI NARAYAN KAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Manipur legislators were found to be involved in the trafficking of drugs and narcotics from Burma to India; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Show cause notice issued on M/s. I.T.C. Limited for Excise Duty Evasion

1049. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1682 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1988 regarding adjudication proceedings against M/s. I.T.C. Limited in respect of excise duty evasion and state:

(a) what progress has so far been made for the realisation of Rs. 803 crores outstanding against M/s. I.T.C. Limited towards Central excise duty; and

(b) by when a final settlement is likely to be arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Show Cause No.