

Bank. Principal outstanding is to-be cleared up by the PWCS-within a year in four installments.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

(d) Under the Handloom Export Scheme, national and international designers of reputed institutions like National Institute of Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology etc. are associated with the project implementing agencies for development of innovative range of diversified handloom products. As a result of direct intervention of designers in such export projects assisted by the Government of India, innovative and competitive products are produced by the traditional weavers after getting trained by the designers as well as by Weavers Service Centres/Master Weavers. During the 10th Plan (till now), 57 such export projects have been assisted under the scheme and the designers associated with these projects are assisting the weavers in developing exportable handloom products.

Comprehensive package for development of textile industry

†1636. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are preparing a comprehensive package, including tax relief for the development of the textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would take action, keeping in view the handloom weavers in rural areas, while formulating the said package, so that they can be provided relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) As part of its pre-Budget exercise, the Government revisits the duty structure in different sub-sectors of the textiles industry to ensure the availability of fabric and raw materials at competitive rates. The proposals for tax relief, if any, are then formulated and after discussions with stakeholders and the competitive authorities, they are finalised.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) A High Level Committee headed by the Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), was constituted to evolve a financial package for handloom weavers. The Committee had submitted its recommendations, which, *inter alia*, includes a waiver of overdue loans/interests, and a proposal to provide loan @ 7% p.a. to the weavers.

Investment of NTC generated funds in loss making organisation

1637. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to utilize the funds, generated from NTC in merging with British India Corporation Mills;

(b) if so, will it be prudent to invest the hard earned scarce resource of NTC with another chronically loss making organization; and

(c) while the move of revival and rehabilitation of sick undertaking is welcome, will there be enough study and evaluation of *pros* and cons made before venturing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The investment decisions regarding rehabilitation of sick undertakings are always taken after due diligent studies, evaluating the pros and cons of all the alternatives.

Subsidy scheme for textile processing units

1638. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry approved a capital subsidy scheme for textile processing units, under the Technology Upgradation Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially for Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what is the present position of textile processing units in that State?