

Engineering Goods Export

714. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that engineering goods exports are stagnating;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what were the actual exports during 1986-87 and 1987-88 as against total production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rising trend is indicated by the figures of export given below:

1985-86 : Rs. 1095.41 Crores (Prov.)

1986-87 : Rs. 1150.00 Crores (Prov.)

1987-88 : Rs. 1320.00 Crores (Prov.)

(c) The export figures and the total production during 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as below:

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Exports	Total Production
1986-87	1150.00 (P)*	44.501 (E)**
1987-88	1320.00 (P)	51 399 (E)

*Provisional.

**Estimated.

Crisis in Handloom Industry

715. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom industry is facing a crisis due to the increase in prices of cotton yarn;

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government have taken or propose to take to save the industry; and

(c) what steps have been taken to promote sale of handloom products within the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):

(a) The handloom industry has been going through a difficult period due

to the increase in prices of cotton yarn;

(b) In order to provide relief to the handloom industry, the Government have taken the following steps to check the rise in prices of cotton yarn;

(i) The export of staple cotton has been suspended.

(ii) Import of cotton has been permitted against export of cotton yarn/cotton fabrics and madeups of Advance Licence basis.

(iii) Export of hank yarn upto 60 counts has been stopped.

(iv) Import of one lakh bales of cotton, duty free, has been permitted for production of cotton yarn for supply to handloom sector. The price advantage accruing

out of the import of duty free cotton will be passed on to the handloom sector.

(c) The Government of India is implementing several schemes for promoting the sale of handloom products, such as:—

(i) Organisation of Handloom Export in major cities of the country;

(ii) Providing share capital assistance to State Handloom organisations for widening their market base and opening of more retail outlets;

(iii) Opening of handloom marketing complexes through the National Handloom Development Corporation;

(iv) Giving assistance for National Design Collection Programmes for the promotion of unique weaves and designs through exhibition-cum-sales;

(v) Purchasing handloom fabrics for Central Government use on the basis of Single Tender System;

(vi) In order to promote sale of handloom products in other countries Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) has been organising buyers and sellers meet, sales-cum-study tours by sponsoring individual exporters, participation in international fairs and exhibitions and providing publicity. Experts/

consultants of international repute has been invited to enlighten our exporters of emerging trends of fashion and designs.

Illegal Arms Manufacturing Factories

716. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illegal arms manufacturing factories which were unearthed between August and December, 1987, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against each of them?

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) to (c) Action for infringement of Arms Act, 1959 is to be taken by State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to whom powers in this behalf have been delegated.

2. According to available information during the period from 1-8-1987 to 31st December, 1987, no activities connected with illegal manufacture of arms and ammunitions were unearthed in the following States/ Union Territories:—

States

Union Territories

1. Andhra Pradesh

2. Assam

3. Arunachal Pradesh

4. Goa

5. Gujarat

6. Haryana

1. A & N Islands

2. Chandigarh

3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli

4. Daman & Diu

5. Delhi

6. Lakshadweep