

gesting that the rate of subsidy on the production of Janata Cloth should be increased from Rs. 2/- per square metre to Rs. 3/- per square metre. In the Union Budget presented to Parliament on 29-2-88, it has been proposed to increase the rate of subsidy on Janata Cloth from Rs. 2/- per square metre to Rs. 2.75 per square metre.

Excise duty on electricity

1393. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of Union Excise duty on electricity paid by (i) Maharashtra State Electricity Board (ii) Tata Power Supply Company (iii) TAPS in Maharashtra to Government of India from April 1, 1979 to September 30, 1984;

(b) what is the total amount of refund made to the Government of Maharashtra during this period; and

(c) whether there is any dispute about this amount raised by the Maharashtra Government; if so, what is the response of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) According to departmental figures, an amount of Rs. 159.71 crores was collected as Central Excise Duty on electricity generated in Maharashtra during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85 (upto 30-9-84).

(b) On the basis of the percentage share prescribed in the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980, the share of Maharashtra Government for the above period worked out to Rs. 131.57 crores and this amount was paid to the State Government on provisional basis, subject to final adjustment on the basis of certified figures of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has addressed the Union Finance Minister stating that an amount of Rs.

162.08 crores was collected in that State by way of excise duty on electricity during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85 (upto 30th September, 1984), whereas an amount of Rs. 131.57 crores was refunded by the Government of India. He has, therefore, requested for release of the balance amount of Rs. 30.51 crores. The Finance Minister has replied to the Chief Minister stating that since the refund of net proceeds of excise duty has been made in accordance with the provisions of Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980 and the Rules made thereunder, it was not possible to reopen the share already paid to the State Government.

Promotion of sericulture

1394. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have urged the State Governments to promote sericulture in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) whether the Central Government have since modernised the functioning of the Central Silk Board in order to increase silk production; and

(d) what other steps Government have taken to promote silk production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Govts. have been urged not to divert the plan outlays earmarked for Sericulture to other sectors. They have also been requested to avail of funds available under various rural development programmes for promotion of sericulture in the rural areas.

(c) and (d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to encourage the development of silk industry, the Central Silk Board has established the