

objectives, procurement and distributions of yarn to handloom weavers through the State Government.

USSR Offer of Open-end Spinning Plants

1617. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the USSR have offered to set up open-end spinning plants through U.P. Handloom Corporation;

(b) if so, what is Government's decision in the matter;

(c) whether Government are aware that standard cloth production scheme is working against the elementary interests of the weavers;

(d) whether Government are aware that neither the quality yarn nor the finance are being provided for the standard cloth scheme or the Janata Dhoti Scheme; and

(e) whether Government are also aware that payments to weavers are delayed for months and if so, what remedial steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government are not aware of any such offer from USSR to set up open-end spinning plants through UP Handloom Corporation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since there is no such thing as standard cloth in the handloom sector, it is presumed that the reference is to Janata cloth. The Janata cloth scheme has been introduced for the benefit of weavers by providing sustained employment to handloom weavers.

(d) Government are not aware of any such difficulties. In fact when the yarn prices went up sometime back, Government had made special arrangements with yarn producers for supply of yarn at reduced prices particularly for meeting the needs of Janata cloth scheme. As regards credit, the Co-operative Societies, which

are implementing the scheme, get concessional finance under Reserve Bank of India Scheme of concessional finance.

(e) Payments to weavers are made directly by the implementing agencies. Sometimes they may be delayed because of working capital problems. Individual complaints were received on which corrective action has been taken.

Export of Railway Engines

1618. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 199, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd February, 1983 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export railway engines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and progress made so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1977, 15 diesel locomotives valued at Rs. 8 crores and 5 steam locomotives valued at Rs. 1.2 crores were exported to Tanzania. During 1982-83, 9 diesel locomotives and spares of the value of Rs. 754.39 lakhs have been supplied to NTPC (India) against global tenders under IBRD financing. This is treated as deemed exports.

Problems of Tobacco Growers of Andhra Pradesh

1619. SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by the tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh due to the manipulations of the private tobacco exporting companies; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to nationalise the tobacco export trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) There is depression in virginia tobacco marketing in Andhra Pradesh during this year due to increased production, outturn of higher proportion of lower grades of tobacco due to adverse climatic conditions and slack export demand.

The STC has been asked to purchase exportable grades of VFC tobacco on their commercial account on a no-profit no-loss basis and low grades of VFC tobacco on Government account, with a view to mitigate the hardship of the virginia tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

Export of Products of Small Scale Industries to Gulf Countries

1620. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) which are the countries in the Gulf region and the Afro-Asian region presently importing products of small-scale industries from India;

(b) whether any assessment has been made regarding the potentials for export of Indian products in these countries;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what incentives are being provided to small scale industries in India to increase their exports to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Although no specific information is available about the countries which import products of small scale industries from India, all the countries in the Gulf region and a large number of countries in the Afro-Asian region import products of small scale industries from India.

(b) and (c) No specific assessment has been made about the potential for export of products of small scale industries from

India to these countries but various studies undertaken by a number of Export Promotion Councils and other Export Developmental Agencies reveal that there is considerable potential for export of products of small scale industries from India.

(d) No specific incentives are provided to small scale industries in India to increase their exports to any specific country or countries. However, Import & Export Policy for 1983-84 does contain several provisions which help exports of products from small scale industries in India.

Closure of Jute Mills in West Bengal

1621. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 893, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 1983 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so far 16 jute mills in West Bengal are locked out/closed leading to unemployment of 64 thousand workers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) The total number of jute mills in West Bengal which continue to remain closed or are under lock-out is 14 affecting about 42,000 workers. This includes three mills viz. Premchand Jute Mills, Naskarpara Jute Mills and Shri Ram Jute Mills which have permanently closed down and are not likely to reopen. The number of workers employed in these three mills were about 7,200.

(b) The matter comes within the jurisdiction of the State Government, and it is for them to take appropriate action in the matter.

Vayodoot Air Service to Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh

1622. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2508,