

year from the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at the then prevailing prices. Sugar purchased at Madras had to be disposed off in Tamil Nadu itself at a loss of Rs. 26.31 lakhs.

(b) Approximately 2,600 quintals of sugar purchased from U.P. sugar mills are at present remaining unsold with the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation.

(c) The purchases were made from the Bills through U.P. Cooperative Sugar Mills Federation, U.P. State Sugar Corporation and Tamil Nadu State Civil Supplies Corporation, which are established cooperative/public sector agencies in the field in the respective States and where Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation did not have its own machinery to make purchases.

(d) The sugar stock remaining unsold is being sold by the Corporation through Super Bazar and it has also been offered to the public through Press advertisements.

#### Power looms allotted to Assam

128. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of power looms allotted to Assam during the last three years and for 1982-83 and how many of them have been lifted by the Government of Assam or by its allottees;

(b) total number of power looms allocated to Weaving Co-operatives, registered institutions and individuals;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of Assam or the allottees were not able to lift the whole quantities allotted to the respective co-operative societies, registered institu-

tions and individuals and if so, what are the number of the looms which could not be lifted;

(d) total number of power looms co-operatives, registered institutions which are not functioning and the number of power looms lying idle; and

(e) total amount of loans, grant-in-aid given to the powerloom co-operatives, registered institutions and individuals and how much loans remained outstanding against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) Assam has been allotted a quota of 2,000 powerlooms for the Sixth Five Year Plan period to facilitate graduation by members of handloom co-operative societies to powerlooms. It is for the State Government to allot powerlooms to co-operative societies. Since only quotas are allotted, the question of either a State Government or the allottees not being able to lift the powerlooms does not arise. Details of powerlooms co-operatives and other institutions which are not functioning and the total amount of loans, grant-in-aid etc. given to powerloom co-operatives and other institutions relate entirely to sphere of responsibility of the State Government.

#### Trade Gap

129. SHRI SANTOSH MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during April and May, 1982 India's trade gap was twice as big as in the corresponding period of the previous year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The

details of exports, imports and balance of trade for April-May, 1982 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year are as below:

(Rs. crores)

	April-May		April-May 1981
	1982 (Prov.)	(Prov.)	(R.v.)
Exports	1033.00*	1010.38	1283.38
Imports	2191.39	1531.22	1928.58
Balance of Trade	-1159.39	-520.84	-644.20

\*Incomplete, a very few export returns were received from Palam and Santa Cruz Air Ports for the Month of May, 1982.

#### Promotion of Exports from Eastern Region

130. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the promotion of exports from the Eastern Region while the country is facing a foreign trade deficit of about Rs. 5,700 crores; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Eastern Region's share of the country's exports had fallen from 49.5 per cent in 1970-71 to 32 per cent in 1979-80 and in the engineering sector alone their share has dropped from 66 to 16 per cent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI E. A. SANGMA): (a) Export from Eastern region consist mainly of jute goods, tea, engineering goods, chemicals and allied products, ores and minerals etc. A close watch is kept on the performance of exports of these and other items from India including Eastern region and suitable measures are taken as and when necessary. For example, in the case of jute manufacturers Government have taken various measures to promote exports of jute goods which include grant of each

compensatory support on export of jute goods, promotion of research work for development of new products etc. Efforts are also being made for capturing new markets for traditional and non-traditional items through greater involvement of State Trading Corporation. In jute goods sector a number of applications for setting up of 100 per cent export oriented units have been cleared by Government. India is also participating in the regional and international level consultations among jute producing and consuming countries under the auspices of UNCTAD, ESCAP, FAO etc. aimed at formulating joint action programme to stabilise prices of jute goods. Necessary action to implement recommendations of the Task Force on jute goods in regard to demand and supply factors, long term problems of technological improvements, market promotion and export strategy has already been initiated.

(b) According to the estimate of Engineering Export Promotion Council, the share of Eastern Region in the overall exports of Engineering Goods from India has gone down over the years. The reason is that Engineering sector has built up considerably during the 15-20 years in various parts of the country notably amongst