

Year	Production			Employment (in lakhs)			
	Khadi		V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
	Quantity (Mill. Sq. Mtrs.)	Value Rs. Crores	Value Rs. Crores	Value Rs. Crores			
1996-97	111.49	626.40	3889.86	4516.26	14.79	43.38	58.17
1997-98	104.20	624.10	3895.21	4519.31	14.01	42.49	56.50
1998-99	98.20	635.89	4476.48	5112.37	13.85	44.44	58.29

The Government has received a few representations from various Khadi Institutions, which have, *inter-alia* given suggestions with respect to the rebate policy, the financial assistance and the reconstitution of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc.

The Khadi rebate policy for the current financial year has already been declared on 1.6.2000. Regarding payment of rebate claims, adequate funds have already been provided to the KVIC against rebate claims. The financial assistance by the banks is provided to the institutions on the basis of the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) issued by the KVIC, which in turn is based on the performance of the institutions. As regards the reconstitution of the Commission, Government have taken note of the suggestions received.

Foreign Postings of SC/ST Officers

*355. SHRI GANDHI AZAD:

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SC/ST Parliamentarians in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister of 17th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 2000 have demanded placement of SCs/STs Officers as Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad;

(b) if so, actions taken thereon and results achieved; and

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the total numbers of posts of Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad and number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs working against such posts as on 1st January, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The representations were forwarded by the Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to be followed up by them with the other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for implementation.

(c) The total number of Indian Missions/Posts functioning abroad on 1.1.2000 was 157. The number of persons belonging to the SC/ST category working against the posts of Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Consul Generals on 1.1.2000 was 22[SC-13; ST-9].

Computer Training Institute on All India Basis

*356. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a computer training institute on an all India basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) There is no proposal with the Government to start a computer training institute on an all India basis.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.