

Statement

The Government of Bihar had submitted in October 1975 a scheme for developing of the handloom industry in Bihar under the 20-Point Economic Programme. This is an Intensive Development Scheme covering 50,000 looms over a period of five years i.e. at the rate of 10,000 looms per annum.

Subsequently, the Bihar Government sent a revised Intensive Development Scheme covering 10,000 looms and also an Export Production Project covering 1,000 looms over a period of five years on the basis of general pattern laid down for these schemes. Both the schemes have been approved by the Central Government in May 1976. The approved outlay on the Intensive Development Project is Rs. 1.85 crores and on the Export Production is Rs. 40 lakhs. These outlays exclude institutional finance for these projects.

The Intensive Development Project will cover the areas of Bhagalpur, Durbhanga and Madhubani, Bihar-shariff and Gaya and Ranchi and Hazari Bagh and the Export Production Project will be set up at Bhagalpur.]

Excise concessions to the textile industry

*159. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to allow some more excise concessions to the textile industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB

MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Members have in view the scheme of excise duty relief to encourage higher production, announced by the Finance Minister at the time of presentation of the Budget for 1976.

The Government have since announced excise duty relief to encourage higher production to selected number of industries. The question of extending the said scheme to the Textile Industry is under consideration. The details of the proposed scheme cannot be indicated at present.

Visit of a high-powered Committee to monuments in Agra

*160. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN:

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ KHA-
PARDE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high-powered Committee appointed by Government recently visited some of the monuments in Agra;

(b) whether any recommendations have been made for the beautification of the monuments, their approaches and environments; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) A meeting in connection with the development of Agra was held on 2-5-1976 which was presided over by the Chief Minister of U.P. This meeting were attended by senior officers both of the State Government and Government of India.

(b) and (c) The major recommendations made were as follows on which necessary action has been initiated by the authorities concerned:

(i) Expansion of the complex at Kosi including landscaping.

(ii) Beautification of the area between the Taj and Agra Fort.

(iii) Widening of Mahatma Gandhi Road which is the main approach road to the Taj.

(iv) Improvement to the area around the Taj, Fort and Itmad-ud-Daullah.

(v) Selection of suitable sites for hotels.

(vi) Shifting of the bus stand in front of the Agra Fort.

(vii) Augmentation of electricity supply to the Taj area, Fatehpur Sikri and Kosi restaurant.

(viii) Removal of encroachments from and cleaning up of the area surrounding the monuments at Fatehpur Sikri and Mathura.

(ix) Removal of beggars, touts and hawkers causing nuisance to tourists at monuments, hotels, etc.

Seizure of smuggled cloves

*161. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of smuggled cloves was recently seized from a village on the sea coast in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action has been taken against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On 1st July, 1976, a quantity of

1230 Kgs. (approximately) of cloves suspected to be smuggled goods valued at Rs. 3,69,000/- were seized by the District authorities at Thuptilipalem coastal village, Nellore. The seized goods were subsequently taken over by the Customs authorities in Nellore. Detention orders under Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act in respect of 5 persons have been issued. Three persons have been arrested so far. Further investigations are in progress.

Export of carpets

*162. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is India's share in the world trade in carpets; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to boost the export of carpets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) It is estimated that the volume of world trade in hand-knotted oriental carpets is of the order of Rs. 400 crores. India's share of this market is about 10 per cent.

(b) A package of incentives is available to exporters. Export promotion measures are being taken in selected markets by participating in exhibitions and sponsoring sales-cum-study teams. New designs are being introduced. The production base for exports is being strengthened by a massive training programme.