

for export of ready-made garments and handicrafts itemwise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cash incentives on ready-made garments and handicrafts have recently been considerably reduced; if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which our foreign exchange earnings are affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government do not give any cash assistance on exports of ready-made garments except for a grant to the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation to compensate for incidence of non-refundable internal taxes borne by exported textile goods. The Indian Cotton Mills' Federation has been operating, on a voluntary basis, a cash assistance Scheme for export of cotton textiles including ready-made garments.

2. The rates of cash incentive vary from item to item and take into account factors such as domestic cost of production and current realisation in the domestic and overseas markets. The rates are generally reviewed every six months.

3. It is a fact that during the October 1973—March 1974 period incentive rates on cotton ready-made garments have been reduced, inter alia, in view of the improved overseas realisation and market-buoyancy.

4. As unit realisation in overseas markets has been substantially higher in the second half of this year, the reduction in incentive rates is not likely to affect the country's foreign exchange earnings.

5. Items of handicrafts exported are, in certain cases, eligible for an air freight subsidy which is at present available for shipments upto 31-12-1973. There has been no reduction in this subsidy.

Development of Darjeeling for Tourism

*192. SHRI SAUL KUMAR GANGULI :

SHRI SUHRID
MULLICK CHOUDHURY:
SHRI SHOWALESS K. SHILLA :
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:
DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 171 in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1973 and state :

(a) whether Government have finally approved the scheme to develop Darjeeling as a tourist centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new hotel is proposed to be constructed there by the India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SMT. SARAJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b) The Central Department of Tourism is constructing a tourist bungalow at a cost of Rs. 4.22 lakhs and a youth hostel at a cost of Rs. 3.45 lakhs at Darjeeling. The work on these projects is in progress and is expected to be completed by March 1974. 2 mini-buses and 2 jeeps have also been provided by the Central Government for use of tourists at Darjeeling at a cost of Rs. 1.65 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.