

made in the sanctioned Budget Estimates for the year 1968-69:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Grants	Loans	Total
Khadi . . .	850-00	105-20	955-20
Village Industries	200-00	160 00	360-00
Subsidy in lieu of concession in interest on loans 332-00*	..	332-00	
Special renewal loans . . .		loan of ..	for past 380-00*380-00
TOTAL	1,382-00	645-20	2,027-20

*To be adjusted by book adjustment; does not involve cash outgo.

Against the above provisions, the following amounts have been released to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission so far during the current financial year :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Grants	Loans	Total
Khadi . . .	282-00	17-00	299-00
Village Industries	66-00	26-00	d2-00
TOTAL	348-00	43-00	391-00

(b) Rs. 220.00 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 29.34 lakhs.

(d) Rs. 685.75 lakhs inclusive of allotment to Andhra Pradesh State Board.

RETRENCHMENT OF KHADI WORKERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

666. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAP-PA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Khadi workers have been retrenched in Khadi Programme of Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any alternative work has been created to absorb these retrenched workers either by the Khadi Commission or by the Government of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Madam. 234 persons employed by the Andhra Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board have been retrenched.

(b) As some of the direct Trading Units of the State Khadi and Village Industries Board were reported to be not running satisfactorily and incurring losses, the Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed a seven-man Committee in June, 1966 with Swami Ramanand Thirta as Chairman to review the reasons for losses in trading operations, to review the working of the Centres and categorise them and suggest measures for improvement. The Committee reported that out of 209 trading centres, 10 were working satisfactorily, 54 were working fairly well and 145 were not working satisfactorily. Of the 145 centres not working satisfactorily, the Committee recommended the closure of 73 centres which were incurring heavy losses. The Committee also suggested that other unsatisfactory centres should be dosed in a phased programme.

(c) The Committee recommended that a Screening Committee be set up to select suitable and qualified persons from the retrenched personnel primarily on consideration of merit for absorption in the integrated development programme &nd in vacancies in other programmes wherever possible. The Committee also recommended that the State Board might impart appropriate training, if necessary, to suitable candidates.

LOAN TO KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION, BOMBAY

667. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAP-PA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan sanctioned to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay since its inception up to 31st March, 1968;

(b) the amount of loan that has been; paid back by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission till 31st March, 1968;

(c) the amount that has fallen due up to 31st March, 1968; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Rs. 76.53 crores.

(b) to (d) Repayment of loans by the Commission to Government will require withdrawal of the loans given by the Commission to the State Boards, cooperative societies and registered institutions. This will affect the production programme of the Commission as the State Boards, cooperative societies and registered institutions do not have any working capital. Pending an assessment by the Commission and Government of the quantum of working fund required by the Commission, the loans falling due for repayment are being renewed to serve as the working fund. On this basis loans amounting to Rs. 54.28 crores which had fallen due for repayment on various dates up to the 31st March, 1968, were renewed for further period of five years.

Apart from the above, the Commission repaid in 1967-68 a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs out of a special loan of Rs. 1 crore which fell due for repayment during that year. The Commission's request for extending the period of repayment of the remaining sum of Rs. 50 lakhs by one year up to the end of the current financial year is under consideration of Government.

UNSOLD STOCKS OF KHADI AND YARN

668. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of Khadi and Khadi yarn with the Khadi Commission which was lying with the various State Boards up to 31st March, 1968; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the stock of both Khadi and yarn ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

MANUFACTURE OF SHOES AND LEATHER GARMENTS WITH RUSSIAN COLLABORATION

669. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a collaboration agreement has been finalised between the Government of India and the Government of U. S. S. R. for the manufacture of shoes and leather garments ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) Schemes of collaboration with U. S. S. R. for manufacture of shoes and leather garments are still under consideration. No agreement has been signed.

WANCHOO COMMITTEE ON RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

670. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: SHRI B. K. MAHANTI ;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Wanchoo Committee which was appointed to probe into the causes of Railway accidents has completed its work and submitted its report ; and

(b) if not, by what time the Committee's work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Not yet.

(b) It will take a few months before the Committee submit their report. No definite date can be indicated at present in view of the complexity and volume of work involved.