

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS <SHRI C. M. POONACHA> (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY FUNDS TO THE STATE GOVERNMENTS

49. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Government of India to the effect that the funds intended for hand-loom industry should be made available to the State Governments outside their respective plan shares;

(b) if so, what is the opinion of the Planning Commission in this regard ; and

(c) what is the action taken by Government on the representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c). Representations have recently been received for providing from outside the State Plan ceiling rebate on the sale of handloom cloth for a period of three months in order to enable the handloom industry to tide over the crisis arising out of huge accumulation of handloom cloth. This has been agreed to by the Government of India including Planning Commission.

COMPETITION BETWEEN HANDLOOM CLOTH AND TEXTILE MILL CLOTH

50. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received by the Government to protect handloom cloth from competition from the cloth made by the textile mills and powerlooms; and

(b) if so what are the steps taken by the Government to promote the sales of handloom cloth?

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

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix LXV, Annexure No. 3.]

EXPORT OF HANDLOOM CLOTH

51. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received by Government requesting it to export handloom cloth;

(b) if so, how much amount is proposed to be spent towards cash incentives for exporting the hand-loom cloth; and

(c) whether any conference of the concerned officials and the representatives of Apex Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies in the Southern States namely Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Madras, and Kerala has been arranged for detailed discussions in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Government do not export handloom cloth. Representations have been received for assistance to be given to exporters for export of handloom cloth. This request has been agreed to and it is proposed to provide a sum of rupees one crore for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to have a conference early in August, 1968.

NEW RAILWAY LINE FROM GUNTAKAL TO TUMKUR

52. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received by Government for construction of a new railway line from Guntakal to Tumkur in Mysore State; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No representation for the construction of this rail link has been received by the Ministry of Railways in the recent past.

(b) Due to the present difficult ways and means position construction of such a rail link cannot be considered at present.

REVENUE FROM GOODS TRAFFIC

53. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :