

HAND-LOOM WEAVERS' COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1484. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been made to the Government of India, for providing adequate working capitals to the Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies;

(b) what are the restrictions imposed at present by the Reserve Bank of India in financing these societies;

(c) whether there are any proposals under Government's consideration for the relaxation of restrictions imposed to help the Handloom industry; and

(d) if so, what are the proposals and by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the scheme of the Reserve Bank of India for granting working capital loan to the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXVII, Annexure No. 99].

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals are:—

(i) The Reserve Bank of India should take into consideration certain additional items while sanctioning credit limits to central banks for financing primary weavers' societies.

(ii) The Bank should permit the primary weavers' societies to calculate the working capital requirements either on per-loom basis or on the basis of 1/3rd of the annual production of the societies.

(iii) The norms relating to the age-wise valuation of cloth should be revised.

The Reserve Bank of India have not accepted these proposals as certain relaxations have already been made.

INDIANS WHO MIGRATED FROM BURMA

1485. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-DEEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indians who have migrated from Burma and have come to settle in India till the end of February, 1969; and

(b) the action taken by Government to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):

(a) About 170,000 Indians have been repatriated from Burma so far.

(b) Rehabilitation assistance in the following forms has been given to over 53,000 persons upto the end of October 1968:

(i) Business loans;

(ii) Employment in Central Government and State Government offices;

(iii) Allotment of agricultural land;

(iv) Allotment of sites for business premises, houses, etc;

(v) Allotment of fair price shops and other licences;

(vi) Old-age pensions;

(vii) Ad-hoc grants for rehabilitation and

(viii) Educational concessions, etc.

Upto October 1968, a total of Rs. 455.17 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government of India to the State Governments for relief and rehabilitation of repatriates from Burma.