

notice. Subsequently, complaints were also received from the two persons concerned. In the course of the enquiry independent witnesses such as a travel agent's representative and the representatives of two Airline Companies were questioned, as well as the Customs Officers who were present. It was found that, although the Customs Officers had in the course of their duties carried out a thorough check of the baggage of the passengers in question, there was nothing to show that there was any discourtesy on the part of the Customs Officers. The complaint was accordingly held to be unfounded.

(c) Does not arise.

#### EXPORT OF HANDLOOM FABRICS

347. SHRI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to increase exports of handloom fabrics to markets other than traditional markets, such as Western Europe;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) how much foreign exchange is likely to be earned annually by such exports?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

#### STATEMENT

Government have always been keenly alive to the problem of increasing exports of Indian handloom fabrics to the non-traditional markets in Western Europe and to the U.S.A. The Handloom Export Organisation was set up a few years ago to explore possibilities of establishing markets for Indian handloom fabrics in non-traditional markets. This organisation not only undertakes direct exports but also brings manufacturers of Indian handloom fabrics into contact with over-

seas importers through it Business Associates. With a view to ensuring that only quality fabrics are exported, Government have instituted a voluntary quality-marking procedure, and exporters, who wish to get the incentives against export of handloom fabrics have to get their goods quality-marked. In order to ascertain consumer tastes in the non-traditional markets, the Handloom Export Organisation conducts market surveys and research. It participated in the New York and Chicago Trade Fairs in 1959 and 1962.

The All India Handloom Board sent an official last year to West Germany to study fashion trends there.

An Export Promotion Advisory Committee for Handloom Goods has been set up to advise Government on measures to increase export of handloom fabrics. Steps are also being taken to ensure adequate supply of yarn of appropriate quality, at reasonable prices.

It is difficult to estimate the amount of foreign exchange which will be earned through exports of handloom fabrics to non-traditional markets in view of the highly de-centralised nature of the industry. It is, however, expected that the foreign exchange earnings will be substantial and are likely to increase progressively, if the current exports of Bleeding Madras can be taken as any indication within the last six months nearly 5 million yards of this variety valued at about Rs. 1.20 crores have been exported to U.S.A.

#### CIVIC AMENITIES IN GOVERNMENT COLONIES IN DELHI

348. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is taking over the task of