

Employment in Khadi sector

4261. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of new model charkhas in the production of khadi instead of traditional single spindle charkhas has led to job loss in the sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof including estimated number of jobs lost;

(c) whether Government is taking steps to return to the single spindle charkhas to enhance employment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The new model charkha was introduced long back and side by side the traditional charkha is also in operation. The new model charkha and traditional single spindle charkha are used to produce different counts of fabric. The traditional charkhas are in operation in the Khadi activities especially in woolen spinning and ponduru fine khadi spinning activities and especially in khes, durry etc.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Search for alternative markets by IOC to sell petcoke

4262. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scraping the bottom of the oil barrel for cheap fuel may be turning into a multi billion dollar headache for India's largest crude refiner Indian Oil Corporation (IOC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Oil Corporation is searching for alternative markets to sell petroleum coke; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) refineries including IOCL's are using secondary conversion units like Fluidised Catalytic Cracker, Delayed