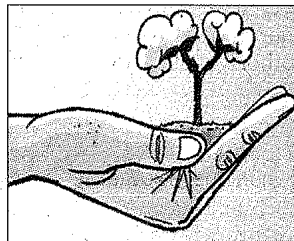


CCI likely to touch 2009 procurement record of 89 lakh bales, may exceed

Nanda Kasabe

Pune, March 3: This season, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is likely to meet or even cross the record procurement figure of 2009, when it had purchased 89 lakh bales. Till date, CCI has procured around 80 lakh bales, exceeding its earlier target of 75 lakh bales, BK Mishra, CMD of CCI, said.

Procurement has slowed down in the last 15 days owing to reduced arrivals on the back of unseasonal rains, he said. "As against normal procurement of 2 lakh bales a day,



Procurement has slowed down in the last 15 days owing to reduced arrivals on the back of rains

CCI is now procuring some 1-1.5 lakh bales a day. Most of the cotton has already been harvested. Farmers however are holding onto their kapas instead of bringing it out in the rains and since Holi is to be celebrated this week, arrivals are likely to pick up

next week," he explained.

According to Mishra, prices have also improved by Rs 1,000 per candy bringing in more traders to the market. The exposure of traders has increased and they have begun participating in cotton purchase," Mishra said.

Lower exports have forced state-run CCI to buy more from farmers this year so that domestic prices do not crash. "Future procurement will depend on the market. At this stage, I can say procurement may go up to 89 lakh bales or even 100 lakh bales. However, if the prices improve, this may not be the situation then," he said.

CCI had last year procured Rs 80 crore worth of cotton. While procurement has been going well, sale operations of CCI have not picked up as anticipated and till date it has sold some 2.5 to 3 lakh bales.

Telangana plans textile policy

B KRISHNA MOHAN

Hyderabad

TELANGANA is working on a new textile policy, which will be in line with the national policy. In the policy, the government will look to provide incentives that match with those given by states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to attract new industries.

The state government has decided to set up a mega textile park in Warangal and has sought clearances from the Centre for the conversion of forest land for it. Warangal is the largest cotton growing districts in the state.

"There is about 1,900 acres of forest land. We are preparing proposals to seek approvals for the use of the same. There are two smaller land parcels that are not part of the forest land and we will look to use these for initiating works," said Jayesh Ranjan, managing director of Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation.

Ranjan is part of the five-member special task force, set up to study the opportunities in the textile

industry.

The committee, headed by deputy chief minister Kadiam Srihari, has A Ramesh and C Dharma Reddy, both legislators, and adviser to the state government BV Papa Rao as members.

The panel has visited Surat, Bhivendi, Tirpur and Coimbatore to study the incentives offered and support system provided, master weavers and their role, products from the various companies, machinery used, global market scenario and demand supply aspects.

"Most companies stressed the need for incentives better than other states to consider Telangana for setting up textile-related units," said Ranjan.

The investment potential of the textile park will be arrived at in the project report, to be prepared shortly, he said.

A meeting has been organised on March 7 to seek the industry's feedback on the integrated mega textile park, said Ranjan.

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Metrolife on the move

Film society highlights work of independent filmmakers. Pg 3 >>

● Paying tribute

Documenting terracotta's journey

Terracotta offerings are a fundamental element of Tamil Nadu's village tradition and culture, where agriculture is the foundation of life. Presented to Ayyanar, a guardian deity, each year during elaborate festivals, these offerings are made to assure the protection and the well-being of villagers, their families, their cattle and the harvest.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) along with Sanskriti Pratisthan, has displayed a visual documentation of the

manifold aspects of the living cult to Ayyanar. 'From Earth to Earth: Devotion and Terracotta Offerings in Tamil Nadu', a two week long exhibition at IGNCA, unveils the making and rituals of terracotta figures of Ayyanar cult, throwing light on the most extraordinary accomplishment of terracotta offerings.

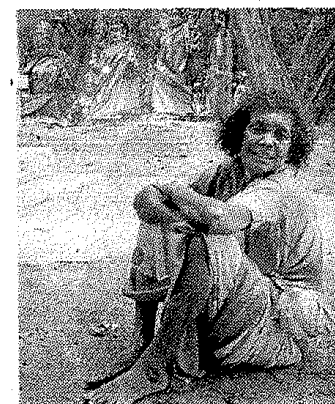
The exhibition, a presentation of Julie Wayne's 10-year-long project in Tamil Nadu would showcase approximately 300 of her select photographs out of her collection of

1,400. Photographer Julie Wayne spent her years exploring and documenting more than 70 shrines, participating in more than 50 festivals.

"Initially I started by taking photos of the shrine. The material there was extremely intriguing and after having found the unexposed shrine in Tamil Nadu. I quickly realised the terracotta offerings was something astonishingly beautiful and extraordinarily related to Tamil culture, especially rural Tamil Nadu" said Julie Wayne describing her experience for this

decade-long project.

She added, "At the same time, I was also aware that



these rituals have not been documented. There was textual or visual documentation that lead me to find out as much as I could about the cult."

Along with 99 framed photographs, the exhibition will also showcase 200 photographs through a slideshow and a 35-minute-long video of the festivals of Ayyanars celebrated in Sacred Groves during spring season by all the related clan. From the characteristic life-sized terracotta horses towering within secluded shrines to humble, foot-high clay dolls and cows amassed under a centuries-old neem tree, the earthen gifts celebrate the cycles of nature and bridge the mortal to the divine.

Around Pongal, which occurs in January, every family in a village decides how many terracotta horses and elephants they want to offer to the deity. The potters are commissioned to carve them by April. The terracotta horses and elephants are then offered to the deity.

Dedicating this exhibition to the potters, Julie Wayne ex-



TRADITIONAL A visitor look at photographs of terracotta figures by Julie Wayne.

plained the reason behind this: "The making of these terracotta offerings is a dying art. Traditionally, the task of making them has been the sole responsibility of a specific caste of potters. In recent times, younger generations have not

shown interest in taking up the vocation of their fathers, and so the skill has been lost completely in some villages, while in others where potters still exist, few if any of the youth are learning the art. This exhibition is my way

of paying homage and giving them their due credit for their devotion."

The exhibition is on view till March 10 at Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, from 10 am to 6 pm.

DHNS