

Times of the 15th April, 1971 saying that India's share *vis-a-vis* the world exports trade during 1970 registered a considerable decline ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are fully aware of the decline in India's share in world exports. Several measures have been taken in recent years to promote our exports and secure a larger share in world exports. These include simplification of industrial licensing procedure and liberalisation of imports for exports oriented production units as well as measures designed to strengthen the competitiveness of our export in the international markets. The compound rate of growth of export envisaged in the Fourth Plan is 7 per cent per annum. The broad guidelines for the export effort are set out in the Export Policy Resolution presented to Parliament in July, 1970.

Losses faced by Textile Industry

1062. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to a report in the *Economic Times* of the 9th April, 1971 regarding losses being faced by the Textile industry in the country ; and

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any initiative to help the industry to reduce these losses and if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided that the existing statutory obligation of the mills to produce controlled cloth to the extent of 25% of their production should not be altered. A scheme has recently been evolved in consultation with the industry whereby the industry has undertaken to produce 100 million sq. metres of controlled cloth during 3 months

beginning from 1st June, 1971.

The mills which produce controlled varieties of cloth will be given a subsidy to the extent of so paise per sq. metre from funds which will be collected by the Industry.

Reduction in Charges for Long Distance Calls

1063. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to effect reduction in charges for long distance telephone calls ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): No, Sir.

Export of Cement by I.C.C. to West Asian Countries

1066. SHRI G. V. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Cement and cement factories have found markets in West Asian countries ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the agreements and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned annually ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. ACC, Bombay have won tenders for erecting cement plants in Kuwait and Baghdad. They are also trying to negotiate erection of a cement plant in other Gulf countries. The total exports of cement to West Asian countries during 1969-70 and 1970-71 stood at Rs. 23 lakhs and 1970-71 (April-Nov.) Rs. 28 lakhs respectively.

Indo-G.D.R. Trade Relations

1067. SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of expanding the Indo-G.D.R. trade relations ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The Government are constantly considering possibilities of further expansion of bilateral trade with GDR. Periodical trade talks, participation in the Leipzig fair, exchange of business visits and contacts at the level of enterprises and Chambers of Commerce between the two countries, are among some of the steps taken in this direction.

G.D.R. Government's Request for Additional *ad hoc* Technical Credit

1068. SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of German Democratic Republic has approached India for the grant of additional *ad hoc* technical credit amounting to Rs. 20 million to enable her to tide over its present balance of payment difficulties with this country ; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Grant of technical credits by the Government of India to other Governments within the frame work of bilateral commercial relationship is of a confidential nature and it would not be in public interest to disclose the details of these arrangements.

रांची में काम कर रहे डाक तथा तार कर्मचारियों को परियोजना भत्ता बिये जाने के बारे में पुनर्विचार

1059. श्री रामावनर शास्त्री : क्या संचार मंत्री रांची में काम कर रहे डाक तथा तार कर्मचारियों को परियोजना भत्ता की अदायगी के संबंध में 1 अप्रैल, 1971 के अनारक्षित प्रश्न संख्या 140 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वर्गीकृत नगरों में 50 प्रतिशत तक परियोजना भत्ता को कम करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार रांची में लगाये गये डाक तथा तार कर्मचारियों को परियोजना भत्ता देने के प्रश्न पर पुनर्विचार करने का है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री हेमवती नंदन बहुगुणा) :

(क) मौजूदा आदेशों के अन्तर्गत यदि परियोजना किमी वर्गीकृत नगर में स्थित हो तो कोई परियोजना भत्ता नहीं दिया जाता ।

(ख) रांची के डाक-तार कर्मचारी परियोजना भत्ता पाने के पात्र नहीं हैं ।

(ग) परियोजना भत्ता किमी परियोजना क्षेत्र में काम करने और रहने वाले कर्मचारियों को उम स्थान पर आवास, स्कूल, मार्केट, औपचारिक आदि के अभाव की क्षतिपूर्ति के लिए दिया जाता है । चूंकि रांची मकान किराया भत्ता देने के लिए वर्गीकृत शहरों के अन्तर्गत आता है और इसमें उपर्युक्त सुख-सुविधाओं का अभाव नहीं है, इसलिए रांची में परियोजना भत्ता देने की यह प्रारम्भिक शर्त पूरी नहीं होती ।

Fall in Prices of Mulberry Cocoon

1070 SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of mulberry cocoons have fallen in Mysore State ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the fall in prices ; and

(c) the steps Government have already taken to stabilise the Prices ?