

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):**  
(a) and (b). The value of exports of jute goods in 1965 at Rs. 184 crores showed an increase of Rs. 23 crores over 1964.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-5902/66.*]

#### **Import of Cotton**

**\*785. Shri Kapur Singh:  
Shri P. K. Deo:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to centralise the imports of foreign cotton;

(b) if so, the details of the centralised agency; and

(c) how the traders and established importers have reacted to this move?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):**  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Shortage of Scarce Raw Materials in West Bengal**

**\*786. Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:  
.. Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of big, medium and small scale industrial units in West Bengal have exhausted their quotas and stocks of non-ferrous metals like copper, brass, lead, tin and zinc and are facing a serious crisis as a result thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modify the provisions of the Scarce Industrial Materials (Control) Order, 1965; and

(c) the steps taken to relieve the present shortage by imports from rupee-payment countries and by import substitution?

**The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under examination.

(c) The import of non-ferrous metals is included in the Trade Plan for 1966 with East European countries. Steps have also been taken to substitute non-ferrous metals as far as possible by aluminium which is indigenously available.

#### **Export of Iron Ore to Japan**

**\*787. Shri Maheswar Naik:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri R. G. Dubey:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps to increase the annual export of iron ore from 12 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes have been decided upon between the Government of India and the visiting Japanese Economic Mission;

(b) whether this decision also envisages integrated development of iron ore mines and the linking of mines with ports; and

(c) if so, the main features of the scheme?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). Discussions have been held on the 11th March, 1966 with members of the visiting Japanese Economic Mission about ways and means of further increasing exports of Indian iron ore to Japan on a long-term basis. With the prospect of Japan's imports of iron ore increasing to 66 million tonnes within a few years, we expressed our intention to raise if possible the quantum of our exports of iron ore to Japan to about 30 million tonnes. Apart from the arrangements already being imple-