Shri A. V. Raghavan: Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: Shri M. V. Swamy: Shri Madhu Limaye: Shri Madhu Limaye: Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaiya: Shri Onkar Lal Berwa: Shri Onkar Lal Berwa: Shri Bade: Shri Omkar Singh:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to relax the restriction of pay-limit of Rs. 350 so as to make the low-income employees residing in distant areas eligible for allotment of scooters from the Government quota; and

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

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Saajiyayya): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, some lower-priced vehicles like the Pearl Yamaha and the Vicky Moped have been included in the Central Government quota for allotment to low-income employees.

Export of Wood to Japan

*530. Shri Firodia: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Japanese Team which visited India recently has expressed the hope that India would be able to sell wood to Japan to the tune of Rs. 75 lakhs per year for their pulp industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to achieve it?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Mr. D. Hasegawa, a Japanese national visited India in January 1966, and evinced interest in the export of timber from India to the extent of Rs. 60 lakhs.

(b) Detailed proposals are awaited from Mr. Hasegawa.

Export of Art Silk Cloth

*531. Shri U. M. Trivedi; Shri Yashpal Singh; Shri C. M. Kedaria; Shri S. L. Verma;

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether no export policy has been laid down so far for the export of art silk cloth;

(b) the total stock of art silk cloth lying in the godowns of merchants and manufacturers; and

(c) what incentives, if any, have been provided for the export and manufacture of this commodity?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) to (c) Exports of art silk fabrics are freely al'owed. There is no restriction on such exports. However, Government are not preparing any scheme of assistance for these exports. The State Trading Corporation is examining whether it can help to organise exports of art silk fabrics. However, even such an arrangement would take considerable time. Therefore, Government have been advising the art silk weaving industry to make their best efforts to export their fabrics on their own.

Some accumulations in stocks of art silk fabrics have taken place. But the exports were hardly 5 p.c. of the annual production and as such an reduction in exports of these fabrics cannot be a major factor for such accumulation. The main cause of accumulation is general slackness in offtake of consumer goods including textiles of all types.

Import of Newsprint

*532. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 712 on the 26th August. 1966 and state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that an importing agent who charged more than the C.I.F. rate contravened the conditions of the letter of