

5. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are conducting technical researches to find new uses for this item;

6. A registered Exporters' Association for turmeric is being formed to promote exports of this item;

7. Arrangements for providing warehousing facilities at reasonable rates are being considered by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

8. Export of turmeric is being allowed without any restriction.

Handloom Cooperatives in Kerala State

*1458. { Shri Warlor:
 { Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given to the Kerala State any amount for the utilisation as working capital for the Handloom Cooperatives in that State during 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Rs. 40,000/- for 1957-58. None for 1958-59.

(b) Working capital loans are now to be secured from the Reserve Bank of India.

Manufacture of Tungsten Carbide

*1459. Shri P. E. Ramakrishnan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been received by Government from foreign firms for setting up a factory for the manufacture of tungsten carbide; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) and (b). Two foreign firms had evinced interest in extending collaboration to the Government for setting up a plant to make tungsten carbide tips and tools. However, in view of the limited financial resources available, it has not been possible to proceed further with this scheme. Private parties are being encouraged to put up schemes acceptable to Government.

India's Foreign Trade

*1460. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export trade is facing a competition from China;

(b) if so, what are the commodities which are adversely affected and in which foreign markets; and

(c) the extent to which our export trade has been affected thereby?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cotton textiles, groundnut oil, light engineering goods, and coal.

(c) It is too early to make an accurate assessment.

Missiles and Military Bases in Pakistan

*1461. Shri U. C. Patnaik: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported construction of launching grounds for guided missiles in Pakistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that run-ways of military aerodromes in Pakistan are being extended so as to provide facilities for landing modern bombers of strategic aviation; and

(c) if so, Government's reactions in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). Government have seen some reports on