

Old Mandovi Bridge

3764. SHRI HARISH PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tempo of construction work on the old Mandovi bridge in Goa is very slow;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the bridge is completed by June, 1992 positively; and

(c) the total amount paid to the constructor as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Due to difficult work of demolition of old superstructure and extra work on investigation and strengthening of foundations, the progress of work was slow in the past. The progress has improved now. The State PWD and the contractor have been instructed to ensure completion of the bridge at the earliest.

(c) Upto November 1991, the total amount paid to the contractor is Rs. 494.97 lakhs.

Nationalisation of Jute Industry

3756. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been no sizable expansion or modernisation of jute industry in West Bengal despite abundant supply of raw jute available in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government of West

Bengal has been pressing for nationalisation of the jute industry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 31.91 crore had been disbursed to 13 jute mills up till 15.11.91 from the Jute Modernisation Fund.

(c) and (d). Government are of the view that take-over/nationalisation is not solution to the problem of sickness and Government will not, as a rule, intervene in such cases. Government have taken several measures for the revival of sick mills including creation of Jute Modernisation Fund to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry, establishment of Special Jute Development Fund for restructuring the jute economy, enactment of mandatory use of jute packing for foodgrains, sugar, cement and urea grant of financial support for R & D activities and product diversification programmes, regular purchase of B. Twill bags on cost plus basis, encouragement of diversification by providing facilities of excise exemption, concessional import duty, marking support etc. Government have also set up a Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to determine and enforce remedial, preventive and ameliorative steps for the revival of sick industrial companies.

Indo-EEC trade

3766. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various issues relating to Indo-EEC trade deliberated at the 7th Meetings of the Indo-Ec Joint Commission held in New Delhi during the last month; and