

Handlooms in Manipur

401. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Manipur has about 1 lakh and 75 thousand handlooms and for which yarn worth six to seven crores of rupees is annually imported from outside Manipur;

(b) whether it is a fact that 50,000 Spindles have been allotted for Manipur and Tripura; and

(c) if so, the arrangement made by the local Administration (Manipur) to establish a spinning mill to prepare yarn locally?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The number of handlooms in Manipur is 2,00,258. Value of yarn imported into Manipur is being ascertained from the Administration and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Scheme for setting up a co-operative spinning mill in Manipur has been submitted to the All India Handloom by the Administration and it is under scrutiny.

Coir Fibre

402. Shri Natraja Pillai: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coir Board has recommended extraction of coir fibre by machinery and production of rubberised fibres; and

(b) whether any State has taken steps to start any industry as suggested by the Board?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Steps have been taken to start defiering plants for manu-

facture of mattress|bristle fibre in Kerala, Madras, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal States. One Plant for the production of rubberised coir products is under erection at Pettai in Tirunelveli District, Madras State.

Woollen Spindles

403. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for allowing the conversion of woollen spindles into shoddy spindles; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in this regard?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). There have been such suggestions from time to time. In view of the acute foreign exchange situation, government are not in a position to give any such permission.

Copper and Brass Products in Rajasthan

404. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a licence for an Indo-U.S. joint venture to produce copper and brass products at Kotah in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the production capacity so licensed; and

(c) the terms of the agreement between the Indian and American firms concerned?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tubes, rods and Sections—

Non-ferrous hollows—1200 tons per annum.

(ii) Non-ferrous Solids—600 tons per annum.