

(b) and (c). So far arrangements have been concluded for the import of about 11,000 bales of cotton, valued at Rs. 81 lakhs, against export of sugar and another 25,000 bales, valued at Rs. 1.75 crores, against export of manganese ore and ferro-manganese. A part of the cotton which will be imported under these arrangements is expected to be supplied by the U.S.A.

Earlier this year, agreement had also been entered into with the U.S.A. for import of 55,000 bales of cotton against export of sugar. Imports of cotton under this arrangement are in progress.

Textile and Woollen Mills

833. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of closed textile and woollen mills in the country;

(b) the name of the State where they exist; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to start these Mills again?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). According to information available with Government no woollen mill is remaining closed. As for Cotton Textile mills, a statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 88].

Price of Scooter Metres

834. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the price at which scooter metres are being imported; and

(b) the price at which they are likely to be sold in the market?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and

Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The item 'Scooter metres' has not been separately classified in the Indian Trade Classification and the Import Trade Control Schedule and as such the information is not available.

Requirements of Iron and Steel

835. { **Shri Buta Singh:**
Shri Narendra Singh
Mahida:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic raw materials of iron and steel produced in our country fall short of our annual requirements and if so, by how much; and

(b) how Government propose to meet this shortage during the next year—what portion by increased production and what portion by imports?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) and (b). There is no absolute shortage of any basic raw material for iron and steel production, excepting that some of the raw materials readily available, as for instance coking coal and limestone, are not always of the most suitable quality required for steel production. Steps are already being taken to develop further the production of the right quality of materials by intensive prospecting and mining.

Acid Dyes and Sulpha Drugs

836. **Shri P. K. Ghosh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of acid dyes and sulpha drugs we consume every year and from where we import them and at what cost;

(b) how much of the country's demand is met from the indigenous manufacturers; and