

Plants in India; and

(b) the steps being taken to train Indian technicians to replace the foreign technicians and to meet the increasing demands for such personnel for these plants in India?

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

(a) 390, Sir.

(b) Indian Engineers have been placed as understudies with foreign engineers. They will replace the foreigners when they acquire sufficient experience.

Timber Trade in Burma

*427. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of Indian interest in the Burmese timber trade which has recently been nationalised; and

(b) how the related questions are being resolved?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):

(a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Broad Looms for Jute Manufacture

767. **Shri Himatsingka:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up a self-financing deferred scheme for speeding up the installation of more broad looms for jute manufacture; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The jute industry has already been permitted to expand its

spinning capacity to the extent necessary to match its weaving capacity on single-shift basis with marginal increases. The Government have also further permitted installation of broad-loom, including spinning and ancillary machinery, on a liberal basis. The Government have now decided to freely permit further expansion of spinning capacity with a view to meeting increased demands for jute goods in the Third Plan.

With a view to enable the industry to obtain its requirements of machinery on a priority basis to achieve increased production it has been decided to permit import of such machinery to the extent they are not available indigenously within a reasonable period of delivery. Import of captive power-generating sets for own consumption in jute mills would also be allowed under this scheme subject to usual clearances.

Such of the jute mills as are able to arrange for a credit with a foreign supplier for the import of spinning preparatory and post spinning machinery will be given import licences for import of such machinery subject to screening for indigenous angle. The import licences will permit remittance of the value of the machinery in two equal annual instalments or four half-yearly instalments as may be desired, the first instalment being payable after completion of the installation of machinery. If required, an initial payment to the extent of 20 per cent will be permitted on order and on shipment of the machinery. Interest may be paid at a rate not exceeding 6 per cent on outstanding amounts and this will qualify for exemption from income tax. If interest exceeds 6 per cent the entire amount of interest will be subject to tax.

The applicant mills would have to undertake to execute a bond to effect additional exports to cover the

value of each remittance by additional exports before the payment falls due.

Salt Cess

768. Shri M. S. Murti: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of salt cess realized annually and how it is being utilised;

(b) whether any loans for grants have been given to any salt works during 1961-62; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri N. Kanungo): (a) The Amount of Salt Cess collected is about Rs. 33 lakhs per annum on an average. Proceeds from the Salt Cess are being utilised on the objects specified in Section 4 of the Salt Cess Act, 1953.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement showing the development loans granted to salt licensees during 1961-62 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library, See No. L.T-968/63.]

Cardamom Prices

769. Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the causes for the fall in prices of cardamoms; and

(b) the steps taken to encourage its exports to foreign countries?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The fall in prices of Indian Cardamom is attributable to several factors like poorer demand, affliction of the crop in certain areas due to certain pests and lack of holding power on the part of the smaller growers.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The following steps have been taken to increase export of Cardamom to foreign countries.

1. With a view to ensuring that the Cardamom Industry is developed on proper lines, so as to secure uninterrupted supplies of adequate quantities required in the foreign markets and generally at steady prices, Government have decided to set up a Directorate of Cardamom Development and Marketing under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with headquarters at Bangalore.

2. The Director of Cardamom Development and Marketing will be advised by a Cardamom Development and Marketing Advisory Committee. The functions of the Committee will be to advise the Government in respect of measures for the development of Cardamom Industry including:

- (1) the promotion and extension of cardamom plantations;
- (2) the improvement of the quality of cardamom and the productivity of the estates;
- (3) making arrangement for supply of fertilizers and ancillary equipment required by the Industry;
- (4) the provision of adequate financial assistance in the form of working capital and credit etc. for measures of improvement; and
- (5) in particular, the marketing of cardamom with a view to ensuring economic and reasonable prices to the grower and augmenting the foreign exchange earnings for exports.

3. The Government of India have constituted Spices Export Promotion Council to promote exports of Spices including cardamom.

4. Compulsory Quality Control and Pre-shipment Inspection Scheme under "Agmark" for export of cardamom has been introduced with effect from 1st January, 1963. This has been done