

(b) if so, when these proposals are likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Gir-dharnagar level crossing at Km. 497|7-8 between Ahmedabad and Sabar-mati Stations has already been provided with power operated lifting type gates and a similar arrangement is also expected to be brought into use during the current year on the Asarwa level crossing No. 1 at Km. 0|9-10 between Ahmedabad-Asarwa Stations.

These improved gates will reduce the detention to road traffic at these two level crossings considerably.

There are no proposals so far for replacement of these two level crossings by Road over|underbridges. There is, however, a proposal from Ahmedabad Municipality for construction of a road overbridge in replacement of level crossing No. 2 beyond Asarwa Station. The proposal is still in the preliminary stages of correspondence with Municipality for their acceptance of terms and conditions.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Polyester Fibre

3538. Shri N. K. Somani: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of man made fibre especially polyester, if so, whether the prices in the open market have shot up; and

(b) whether Government have plans for a more equitable distribution of this and other fibres in relation to the cotton mills' installed capacity to manufacture fabrics for export?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. As the manufacturer of polyester fibre sells the entire production to actual users; prices shooting up in the open market would not arise.

(b) No, Sir. As the number of consumers of manmade fibre are very large, and some of these consumers particularly for fibres other than polyester are very small in size, it would not be practicable for Government to distribute these fibres.

The polyester fibre manufacturing unit has drawn up a scheme which is under consideration to supply a portion of their production to exporters at concessional price.

Handloom Industry in Manipur

3539. Shri M. Meghachandra: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 859 on the 7th April, 1967 and state:

(a) whether a serious crisis which is hitting the handloom industry in the country has also hit the industry in the Union Territory of Manipur;

(b) if so, how many looms and weavers have been affected;

(c) whether Government of Manipur have requested for facilities to open Emporia for the handloom products and handicrafts in some important State capitals and Delhi; and

(d) how many sale emporia have been opened by the Government of Manipur outside Manipur?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi):

(a) and (b). The Government of Manipur informed us in April 1967 that there is no crisis in the handloom industry in that Territory. Prices of yarn, dyes and chemicals had risen by 10 to 12½ per cent. The Government of Manipur has been asked to furnish the latest information which will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.