

licensed capacity in respect of 54 priority industries would be a help or expanding the base for export production. Moreover, applications received from export-oriented units for capital goods licenses, industrial licenses and/or for foreign collaboration are being processed on a priority basis through the various licensing mechanisms. Improving efficiency of production, reduction of cost and adaptation of production to meet the requirements of foreign customers are adequately taken into account while processing the applications of export oriented units for various types of licences.

(b) & (c). The Fourth Plan target for annual growth of exports is 7 per cent. Although export performance may vary from year to year, Government are confident that the average annual rate of growth of exports during the Fourth Plan period will be close to the plan target. This will make an important contribution to the realization of the objective of self-sustained growth.

Closure of Staple Yarn Units in Ludhiana

60. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIH : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a mass closure of staple yarn units in Ludhiana during February this year;

(a) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Legislation to enable Government Employees to seek elections to Central and State Legislatures

61. SHRI FETESINGHRAO GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to enable Government Employees to seek elections to the Central and the State Legislatures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Fresh Inquiry into Rayon Yarn Prices

62. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to appoint a Committee or a Commission to institute a fresh inquiry into the question of Rayon Yarn prices;

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference ; and

(c) the time by which the Committee will submit its report to Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Differences Between States Over Thien Dam Project

63. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the differences between the States concerned on the question of Thien Dam Project on the Ravi in Punjab have been resolved by the Central Government;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and the further steps proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b) : There are some inter-State aspects of the project which have to be settled between the concerned States. These matters are still under discussions with the States