

Reopening of Closed Textile Mills

124. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Cotton Textile Mills lying closed in each State at present and the number of employees effected thereby;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reopen the closed mills; and

(c) what assistance the Centre will provide for reopening the mills ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a) Excluding mills considered fit to be scrapped, there were 52 cotton textile mills lying closed in the country at the end of January, 1972 affecting about 53, 528 workers. The statewise break up of these mills is as follows:-

Andhra Pradesh	5
Assam	1
Bihar	1
Gujarat	6
Kerala	3
Maharashtra	2
Mysore	1
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	12
Uttar Pradesh	3
West Bengal	13
Pondicherry	1
	52

(b) and (c) . The cases of closed mills are examined and action is initiated under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. When considered necessary, the management is taken over by Government and financial assistance for working capital, modernisation etc. is provided jointly by the National Textile Corporation and the State Governments/State Textile Corporations concerned.

Holding back by U.S. Government Supply of PL-480 cotton

125. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Government have decided to hold back the supply of cotton to India under PL-480;

(b) whether this would result in any serious shortages of cotton in India; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to meet the shortage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c) . The supply of cotton from U.S. under the P.L. 480 Agreement signed on 1.4.71 has been fully received. However, there have been no discussions with US on the supply of cotton under PL 480 agreement after the recent suspension of economic aid to India by U.S. Government.

Serious Power Crisis in Calcutta Industrial Area

126. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta industrial area is again threatened with a serious power crisis;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortage of power in the area; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken to meet the threatened crisis.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B.N. KUREEL) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Apart from the restrictions on some industrial consumers during peak load hours for providing spinning reserve in the system to mitigate the hardships likely to result from any forced shut-downs, no serious power crisis is anticipated in the Calcutta industrial area. With the commissioning of the Santaldih Power Station and