

Composite Textile Mills

6049. **SHRI N. E. HORO:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit large business houses to set up composite textile mills; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH).

(a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Import duty on dry fruits from Afghanistan

6050 **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN.** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state

(a) whether tariff rates on dry fruits imported from Afghanistan have not been revised for the last three years and whether it has resulted in huge loss to exchequer due to lower import duties;

(b) whether market rates of dry fruits have gone up by 100 per cent over the period;

(c) the amount of loss of import duty thereby; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) to (d). The tariff values in respect of certain varieties of dry fruits imported from Afghanistan were fixed in July 1971. Thereafter these were reviewed in 1972 and 1973 when it was decided not to revise them. The prices of dry fruits of Afghanistan origin have gone up during the recent years but not by 100 per cent. The increase is of a much lower order.

However, having regard to increase in their prices, the tariff value is already under revision.

Accordingly, the question of loss of revenue does not arise.

Import licence for dry fruits to S.T.C.

6051 **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:**
SHRI K MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state.

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation was granted an import licence for dry fruits from Afghanistan for Rs 25 lakhs last year.

(b) what has been the performance of STC for this licence and how much profit has been made by STC on this import.

(c) whether the STC has been given licence for import of dry fruits from Iran and for dates from Iraq;

(d) if so, the value thereof and whether any profit has been made by STC on this import, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The STC has imported dry fruit valued at Rs 5 lakhs c.i.f. STC is expected to make a small profit.

(c) No licence for import of dry fruits from Iran has been given to the STC. The STC has, however, been given a licence for import of dates from Iraq.

(d) The value of the import licence for dates is Rs. 50 lakhs. No imports of dates have, however, been made by STC so far.

(e) Does not arise.