

issued by Government vide No. 209/83, this unit is exempted from paying the Excise Duty ; and

(c) the reasons why the Excise Department is pressing the unit to pay the excise duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDANA POOJRY) : (a) to (c). M/s Eastern Metal and Ferro-Alloys Limited, Haridaspur, Cuttack, Orissa are manufacturing ferro-alloys using aluminothermic or Thermit process. As per notification No. 209/83, now superceded by notification No. 62/85-CE dated 17-3-85, units manufacturing ferro-alloys are eligible for exemption from excise duty if manufactured without the aid of power employing the aluminothermic or Thermit process. Collector of Central Excise, Bhubaneshwar has held that the unit is using power in the manufacture of ferro-alloys and hence would not be eligible for exemption from excise duty under the said notification. The unit has disputed the decision and has gone to court. The matter is subjudice.

Setting up of Jute Mills in Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh

5975. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of jute mills set up in Raigarh district, Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) whether there have been enough scope for setting up of more number of jute mills in that district ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to set up more number of jute mills in that district to create better employment opportunity for the local unemployed people ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) There is one

jute mill in Raigarh district, Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up any new jute mill in Raigarh district of Madhy Pradesh. The existing capacity of jute industry in the country is considered adequate.

Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills

5976. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of Supply and Textiles be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Gaya Cotton and Jute mills controlled by the National Textiles Corporation has almost become a sick unit ;

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ;

(c) if not, the amount of profit earned by this unit during the last four years ;

(d) whether the workers of these mills have not received their wages for the past four months ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(f) the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). During the last four years, the losses incurred by Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills have been as follows :

| Year | (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|----------------|
| 1981-82 | — 26.80 |
| 1982-83 | — 74.70 |
| 1983-84 | — 214.08 |
| 1984-85 | — 167.76 |

The following steps have been taken/ are being taken to improve the performance of this mill :

- (i) arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels;
 - (ii) working capital has been replenished to the extent of cash losses incurred ;
 - (iii) effecting modernisation of plant and machinery ; and
 - (iv) effecting rationalisation of workload and labour force.
- (d) No, Sir. All permanent workers have been paid their wages regularly.

(e) and (f) : Do not arise.

Setting up of Silk and Tussor Cotton Industries in Birbhum in West Bengal.

5977. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the utilisation of raw material for silk and tussor industry in Birbhum in West Bengal ?

(b) in view of the sufficient cultivation of tut plantation and rearing of cocoons in some areas of Birbhum, West Bengal, which is considered essential raw materials for growth of silk and tussor industry, what are the schemes in Central sector for setting up of silk and tasar cottage industry in Birbhum ;

(c) the financial and institutional assistance provided so far for setting up of this industry ;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted by Central agency for proper study of the prospects of this industry ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof ;

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) In West Bengal 700 tonnes of mulberry raw silk and eleven tonnes of Tasar raw silk was produced during 1983-84. The silk produced is utilised by the Handloom weavers and Khadi Institutions in West Bengal but specific information about consumption of mulberry and tasar raw silk in Birbhum district is not available.

(b) and (c). Inter State Tasar project being implemented by Central Silk Board in West Bengal under Indo-Swiss Technical Cooperation programme covers development of Tasar Silk Industry in Birbhum District also. Under the project a sum of Rs. 78.32 lakhs has been released so far the Tasar Sector, a Basic Seed Multiplication-cum-Training Centre is functioning at Mohammed Bazaar for arranging production and supply of Tasar Basic Silkworm Seed to State level pilot project Centres for further multiplication and supply of quality silkworm seed to the Tasar rearers. Similarly under the Mulberry Sector, CSB has established a Regional Research Station at Bolpur in Birbhum District for tackling the problem of sericulturists in the area. Further an extension Centre for Mulberry has also been established in Birbhum District for dissemination of improved techniques of mulberry cultivation and silk-worm rearing among the farmers.

(d) to (f). A survey was organised by Central silk Board to study the prospects of Mulberry Sericulture Development in Birbhum district and the intensive sericulture development project envisaged for Birbhum district to cover 1000 acres mulberry plantation is a result of this survey.

Minerals in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh

5978. SHRI H. A. DORA : Will