

[Translation]

Opening of N.T.C. Showrooms in Development Block Headquarters in Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh

5167. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textiles Corporation propose to open showrooms in the development block headquarters of hill districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the showrooms will be opened in all the development block headquarters of districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). National Textile Corporation (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd., Kanpur will be opening two showrooms, one in Pithoragarh and another in Almora, in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. These two showrooms are being furnished and are likely to commence business by the end of May, 1985. Further opening of showrooms will be considered in the hill areas only after assessing demand and reviewing the performance of the above two showrooms. However, there is no proposal to open showrooms in all the development blocks of hill districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Delay in Starting Construction Work of Bharat Refractories Limited, Devalthal

5168. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) when the Bharat Refractories Limited, Devalthal was inaugurated;

(b) the number of times its Chairman has inspected the mining work and visited the factory site since its inauguration;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay in starting the construction of the project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to speed up the work of this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Work on Pithoragarh Magnesite Project of Bharat Refractories Limited was inaugurated at site on 31st October, 1982.

(b) The Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) was present at the site of the Pithoragarh project at the time of its inauguration. He has not visited the site thereafter; he keeps himself informed about the progress of the project through the Project Manager who is posted at site.

(c) and (d). There has been delay in starting the construction of the project. The main reasons are as follows :

On the advice of MECON, the consultants of Bharat Refractories Limited, it was initially decided to allot the work of setting up the Rotary Kiln Complex on a turn-key basis. Tenders were accordingly invited. Only one firm responded to the tender. Their rates were abnormally high and they were not prepared to reduce their rates. BRL then decided to float separate tenders for specific packages of work, such as rotary kiln, ancillary equipment, civil work, township, etc. This took time and resulted in delay.

BRL's application for the transfer of Government land for the plant and township is pending clearance by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Various formalities to be complied with under the forest Conservation Act, 1980, have also contributed to delay in the transfer of Government land.

(e) Of late there has been some slowing down of the project due to change in demand for dead burnt magnesite and its availability in the country.

Existing Scheme for Attractive Investments in LIC

5169. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that various erstwhile attractive schemes meant for attracting investment in Life Insurance Corporation have become very old and unattractive in the context of changed times; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make them attractive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India have been keeping pace with the changing needs by continuously reviewing their existing plans and devising new plans to suit the requirements of the changing times. They have modified the terms and conditions of the existing plans to make them more attractive and acceptable. New insurance plans like Money Back Plan, Progressive Protection Policy, Children's Anticipated Policy, Jana Raksha Policy, etc., have also been evolved taking into account the changes in socio-economic conditions and consequent shift in consumer preference.

Availability of Yarn to Weavers in Barabanki District of U. P.

5170. **SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is one spinning mill and are retail shop in Barabanki district in Uttar Pradesh for providing yarn to weavers;

(b) if so, the reasons for which yarn is not being made available to weavers and whether working of spinning mill and retail shop is not satisfactory; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard and the measures taken to make yarn available to weavers and the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, one Unit of U. P. State Spinning Mills Company (No. 1) Ltd., is located at Barabanki district. The Mill has opened a retail outlet in its premises in order to facilitate the supply of yarn to the weavers at the mill-gate.

(b) No complaint has been brought to the notice of the Central Government regarding the working of the Spinning mill and its retail shop.

(c) Does not arise.

Rise in Price of Staple Yarn in U. P.

5171. **SHRI KAMLA PRASAD**

RAWAT : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of weavers in the country and the number of weavers in district Barabanki in U. P. out of them;

(b) whether price of staple yarn has gone up recently by Rs. 30 per bundle;

(c) if so, the reasons for increasing the prices thereof;

(d) whether keeping in view the financial difficulty of weavers, Government propose to reduce the prices of staple yarn per bundle which has been increased recently;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if so, by what time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) There are approximately one crore weavers in the country and the estimated number of weavers in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh is about 57,000.

(b) There has been some increase in the prices of staple yarn and according to information received from Coimbatore market, the prices for 2/44s have gone up by about Rs. 20 per bundle of 5 kgs., between December, 1984 and mid-April, 1985.

(c) to (f). The increase in the price of staple yarn may be attributable to a number of factors including the cost of inputs. There is no statutory price control on staple fibre spun yarn produced in the country. These are also on OGL for imports.

Fees charged for Appu-ghar and other Pavilions at Pragati Maidan

5172. **SHRI R. M. BHOYE :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tickets in the Pragati Maidan are not sold at one point but have to be purchased from different pavilions or separately for Appu-ghar, train and swings;

(b) if so, the rates of tickets in each case; and

(c) whether Government propose to make the entry free for children for all these