

Reimposition of Emergency Regulations in South Africa

918. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent reimposition of emergency regulations in South Africa by the racist regime; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware of the reimposition of emergency regulations by the racist regime in South Africa.

(b) Government condemns all such repressive actions of the South African racist regime which grossly violate the political and human rights of the people.

Shifting of Head Offices of Tea Companies to Guwahati

919. PROF. PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal from State Government of Assam about shifting of Head Offices of the Tea Companies, having tea gardens in Assam from Calcutta to Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tea is a major traditional export commodity from India. Calcutta being one of the major Indian ports has remained the centre of export activities for a long time. A number of exporting firms are located at Calcutta. Moreover, most of the tea buying

for overseas markets is done at the Calcutta Auction. Thus it may not be practicable to ask the tea companies to shift their offices to Guwahati. Such a shift will deprive these companies of the above-mentioned infrastructural facilities.

Closure of Textile Mills in Northern Region

920. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the textile mills in Northern Region are facing closure due to inadequate availability of cotton and also increasing cotton price; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to provide adequate supply of cotton at reasonable price to these mills to save them from closure in the larger interest of millions of workers employed in these mills?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The reasons which lead to closure of mills are varied and may be attributed to excess capacity, surplus labour, sluggish demand, old and obsolete machinery, high cost of production, etc.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Reopening of Jute Mills in West Bengal

921. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of jute mills are closed in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the number of closed mills in West Bengal as on 1st July, 1987 and how many workers have been thrown out of job as a result of this;