

Participation in Sial Trade Fair held in Paris

1660. **SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority participated in the 'Sial Trade Fair' held in Paris in November, 1976;

(b) who was deputed as their representative at the above fair;

(c) whether the above representative had booked on official account a number of long distance private trunk calls to USA and other places from the phone installed at their stand; and

(d) the amount involved on this account?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Oupsep D. Attokaren, Secretary, Marine Products Export Development Authority represented the Authority and 12 other exporters of Seafood were sponsored by Marine Products Export Development Authority to participate in the Fair.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

Rise in the Prices of Handloom Yarn

1661. **SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of the handloom yarn increased substantially during last emergency;

(b) whether due to this several handloom units have been closed and workers rendered unemployed; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Hank yarn prices which had moved down upto February/March, 1976, started going up gradually. From end of 1976, there has been further spurt in prices and this trend continued till March, 1977.

(b) and (c). No information has been received about the closure of handloom units as a result of the price rise. However, the price rise has adversely affected the Handloom industry. The Government has taken some measures to meet the situation including imports of cotton and man-made fibres and restrictions on their use by the mills.

Problem of Cashew Industry in Kerala

1662. **SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are looking into the problem of Cashew Industry in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Cashew industry in Kerala and other States of the country is passing through a difficult phase because of the shortage of raw cashew-nuts for processing. The minimum requirement of the industry is around 3 lakh tonnes. The indigenous production is estimated to be between 1.4—1.85 lakh tonnes. The gap of about 1.5 lakh tonnes between the requirement and availability is to be