

(d) Efforts have been made by the Government to provide assistance from the neighbouring States to Madhya Pradesh to meet the power deficit to the extent possible. Assistance of 5-6 lakhs units per day is presently being given by Maharashtra to Madhya Pradesh. However, it has not been possible to meet the full power requirements and the State Government have imposed power cuts, staggering of loads and peak load restrictions. Bharat Aluminium Company have also been requested to reduce off-take for their newly commissioned second pot line. The power supply position is expected to improve by April, 1978 when second 120 MW unit at Amarkantak is scheduled for commissioning.

Cotton Yarn Export

2096. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI S. S. SOMANI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced their policy regarding the cotton yarn export;

(b) whether priority has been given for supplying yarn to weavers at ex-mill rates by mills through State level organisations;

(c) whether priority has also been extended to handicraft industry; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d). To check the increase in the prices of cotton yarn and to ensure supplies to the decentralised sector of the industry, Government banned the export of cotton yarn (except folded cotton yarn of 3 ply and higher ply and tyre cord yarn) from 8-8-1977 until further orders.

In order to contain the rising prices of yarn, the representatives of NTC Mills, All India Cooperative Spinning

Mills and the private sector mills agreed in their meeting with the Government on 6-7-1977 that they would arrange to supply hank yarn in bulk quantities at ex-mill rates on commercial terms to the State Apex Societies and State Handloom Development Corporation.

Handicrafts occupy a very important place in the economy of the country and all efforts are being made to develop this industry. There is at present no specific problem with regard to supply of cotton yarn to this sector.

Increase in Paper Production

2097. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the production of certain varieties of paper during last three-four months;

(b) if so, the details regarding the varieties of such papers;

(c) whether it has been done with the consent of Government and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). There is no market increase or decrease in the last 3 or 4 months in the production of paper and paper board classified into four categories, namely, (i) writing and printing papers; (ii) wrapping and packing papers; (iii) paper boards and (iv) miscellaneous papers.

(c) and (d). There is no control on the production of paper and paper board except for one variety, viz. white printing paper. In the case of white printing paper also only a minimum level of production has been stipulated, and there can be no objection to higher production.