

Government is aware of the developing shortages in certain key industrial areas.

(b) The Government has taken a number of steps to meet the situation. These are both short term and medium term. With a view to increasing production and availability in 1978-79 a number of decisions were taken which provided for making special efforts for achievement of targets already set for critical industries (power, coal, steel, fertilizers and non-ferrous metals); setting up of higher production targets in selected industries (paper, cement, commercial vehicles, wagons and textiles produced by the national Textile Corporation Mills); advance planning of imports and buffer stocking of crucial inputs; and continuous monitoring and coordination.

To achieve a better demand-supply balance in the medium term, the Draft Five Year Plan 1978-83 provides for a number of measures. It provides on better utilisation of capacities in those industries where the adequate capacities have already been created. In some other industries like cement, fertilizers, paper, drugs and pharmaceuticals, etc. It is proposed to create additional capacities so as to meet the anticipated requirements. The Plan also envisages imports in a number of cases like steel, non-ferrous metals, fertilizers, drugs and pharmaceuticals to fill the gap between demand and domestic production.

A Special Cabinet Committee has been set up to continuously monitor the production in crucial sectors and suggest timely measures to meet likely shortages.

Purchase of Cotton from Gujarat by C.C.I.

8458. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed by Cotton Corporation of India for purchase of cotton bales from Gujarat out of the

total production of cotton during this year;

(b) how many cotton bales so far purchased and at what rate from Gujarat out of the above target;

(c) whether Cotton Corporation of India propose to take steps to speed up cotton purchases; and

(d) if so, what are those steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d): The Corporation has a programme to purchase about 5 lakh bales of cotton from Gujarat during the current cotton season. Against this, the Corporation has purchased 1.68 lakh bales upto 18th April, 1979 at ruling market prices and further purchases are in progress. The Corporation has set up 31 purchase centres in Gujarat this season as against 17 centres set up in the previous season, is also purchasing Kapas and Fully Pressed bales from Cooperative Societies in Gujarat.

Aid to Kerala for the Handloom Intensive Development Projects

8459. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to give financial assistance - to the Government of Kerala for handloom intensive development projects and if so to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): Two Intensive Handloom Development Projects with Headquarters at Cannanore and Trivandrum have been sanctioned as centrally sponsored schemes. Both these Projects commenced in 1977. As per approved pattern of Central assistance, the Central Government gives assistance up to 75 per cent of the total outlay on the project during the first three years and