

cial vehicles in the country through input support, technical support and the creation of additional capacity. Government have also advised TELCO to step up supply of bus chassis to West Bengal.

Import of Cotton

1788. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton is being imported;

(b) if so, the cotton imported during the year 1978-79 and 1979-80 and of which quality and from which country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that we are in surplus of cotton production; and

(d) whether Government propose to put a ban on cotton import to save the cotton growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No cotton was imported during the cotton year 1978-79 and there is also no proposal to import cotton during the current cotton year 1979-80.

(c) For the last two cotton seasons, the cotton supply position in the country is quite comfortable.

(d) There is no proposal to import cotton from abroad.

Production of Smaller Aircrafts

1789. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for the production of small feeder aircrafts in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI

C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b). Hindustan Aeronautics Limited are evaluating various proposals for collaboration with foreign manufacturers for joint development, production and marketing of a small aircraft, which can be used *inter alia* for feeder services.

Shortage of Cement in Calcutta

1790. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that developmental work in Calcutta is retarded because of the shortage of cement; and

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to fulfil the shortage of supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) The availability of cement in the country is less than the demand and, therefore, to this extent, it is likely that some works in Calcutta may be affected.

(b) The Government are making every effort to increase the availability of cement in the country by better utilisation of existing capacities, sanctioning new capacities and imports.

Attempt of American firms to dump toxic wastes overseas particularly in developing countries

1791. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in the British Journal "New Scientist" that some American firms are attempting to dump toxic wastes overseas to particularly in the developing countries to bypass U.S. environmental laws; and

(b) if so, whether Government have satisfied itself that the shipments to India do not contain any toxic waste which may find its way into India through a third country liner?