

due to imposition of export duty on tea in 1977, and (iii) over-all lack of buoyancy in the export trade. The steps taken by Government in the wake of declining exports in 1978, include (i) the abolition of export duty on tea with effect from 14-2-1979, (ii) re-introduction in January, 1979 of the system of refund of additional excise duty on packet tea exports, (iii) placing the import of tea bagging machines under OGL, (iv) the reduction in the import duty on tea bagging machinery from 75 per cent to 25 percent w.e.f. 18--80, and (v) enhancement of the rate of cash compensatory support from 10 per cent to 12½ per cent on packet tea and tea bags from April, 1979. In addition, the Tea Board's office abroad continue to undertake various promotional measures name generic promotion, uni-national promotion, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions etc.

Working of Sick Textile Units under National Textile Corporation

3949. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by Government to revamp the working of the various sick textile units at present run by the National Textile Corporation;

(b) whether in view of the present trends in the textile industry, Government have considered the desirability of taking up the manufacture of man-made fabrics in some of these mills like terrycot, terene and other types of blended fabrics;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in the matter with a view to ensure profitable working of the National Textile Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (d). Some of the important steps taken

and/or being taken to improve the working of NTC mills and to make them viable are as follows:—

(i) modernisation/renovation of the machinery;

(ii) rationalisation of work load and labour force;

(iii) bulk procurement of raw material on centralised basis;

(iv) diversification in the pattern of production; and

(v) installation of diesel generating sets in some of the units to overcome power shortages.

(b) Terrycot and blended fabrics are already being produced in some of the NTC mills where necessary facilities are available.

(c) Does not arise.

Gold output of Kolar Gold Fields

3950. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA. Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present gold output of the Kolar Gold Fields;

(b) whether it has been explored at any stage that the mining of lower grade ore will yield more profitable results; if not, the reasons therefor and

(c) what other measures are proposed to be taken to raise the output and create more employment potential for the Local miners who had lost their jobs on account of retrenchment some time back?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The output of gold during 1979-80 was 1560 kgs. The output during the first quarter of 1980-81 was about 375 kgs.