

foundries through stockyards or Small Scale Industries Corporations, and supplies through Foundries Associations have been discontinued.

Study Regarding Working of Public Sector Units

702. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had ordered a case-to-case study of the working of Public Sector Units;

(b) if so, whether any report has been received in this regard; and

(c) the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Constitution of an Export Committee for undertaking a study particularly of the larger public sector units and those which are incurring heavy losses is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Stimulating the Industrial Production in the Field of Cotton Textiles

703. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to stimulate industrial production, particularly in the field of cotton textiles in view of the present stagnation in the industrial sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There has been some marginal set-back in production of textiles during the current year due mainly to inavailability of power supply. Production of yarn has, however, been safeguarded through steps,

such as permission granted to industry for using discarded spindles and relaxation given to waste spinning units for spinning even upto 40 counts. The impact of reduction in manufactured fabrics in the organised sector due to power cuts have been minimised to some extent by production in hand-looms. With the improvement of the power supply situation and the implementation of modernisation programmes, textile production is expected to be stimulated.

Stimulating the Industrial Production of Steel

704. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to stimulate industrial production, particularly in the field of steel in view of the present stagnation in the industrial sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). A number of measures; such as close monitoring of supplies of power and coal, effective liaison with State Administrations to ensure improved law and order, increased generation from captive power plants and augmentation of their capacity; have already been taken to improve production of steel, which would, it is hoped, stimulate production in steel-based industries by removing constraints on the availability of their basic raw material.

Indo-Nepal Trade

705. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sino-Nepalese trade agreement has any effect on the Indo-Nepal trade;