

(i) Through voluntary arrangements, the private mills affiliated to ICMF have agreed to provide 23,000 bales of yarn every month at ex-mill prices to the public distribution agencies in the States;

(ii) National Textile Corporation and State owned spinning mills have opened depots/sales centres at mill gates and important centres so as to ensure better availability of yarn to the weavers at mill prices;

(iii) the apex handloom cooperative societies and handloom development corporations in the States are being assisted by way of share capital contribution to take up distribution of yarn to weavers by direct procurement from private and public sector mills; and

(iv) permission has been granted to industry for using discarded spindles and relaxation given to waste spinning units for spinning even upto 40 counts.

Breakdown in Steel Production Plants collaborated by USSR

1459. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent discussions held by the Soviet Dy. Prime Minister Mr. I.V. Arkhipov, in March, 1980, the subject of breakdowns production in steel plants in India built with Soviet collaboration was discussed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There has been no break-down of production as such in any of the steel plants built in India with Soviet collaboration. Production has, no doubt, been affected adversely in all the steel plants due to inadequate availability of certain essential inputs such as coal and power. The question of dis-

cussing the subject of "break-downs" with the Soviet Dy. Prime Minister, Mr. I. V. Arkhipov in March, 1980 does not, therefore, arise.

Banking facilities in Kizhattur in Malappuram District in Kerala

1460. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no banking facilities in Kizhattur and Vettathur panchayats in Malappuram district of Kerala;

(b) whether there is a growing need for banking facilities in these areas to meet the requirements of cultivators, traders and others as also due to increasing foreign remittances to people in these areas; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the banking requirements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT). (a) Information about availability of banking facilities is maintained by the Reserve Bank districtwise. However, it has been reported that a branch of the South Malabar Gramin Bank is functioning at Vettathur since February 22, 1978. This Bank is also expected to open its branch at Kizhattur, shortly.

(b) and (c). The Reserve Bank has indicated that even though Malappuram is not a deficit district in terms of banking coverage of rural and semi-urban population, it has permitted the banks to open branches at 23 centres recommended by the State Government in this district.

Setting up of Charged Chrome Plant in Orissa

1461. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of firms to whom letter of intent for setting up charged chrome plants in Orissa have been issued; and

(b) have the parties submitted their feasibility report and when the units are likely to go into production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) two units viz. M/s. Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar (OMC) and M/s. Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd., (FACOR) have been issued Letters of Intent (LOI) for setting up charge chrome plants in Orissa.

(b) The parties have submitted their feasibility reports. Both the parties have indicated that the plants would go into production in three years' time from the date of issue of the LOIs. The two plants of OMC and FACOR are, therefore, expected to go into production by 26th April 1982 and 12th November 1982 respectively.

Import of Cocoa Beans

1462. SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has telegraphically requested the Government of India not to allow further import of cocoa beans to save the large number of cocoa growers in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the immediate steps taken to tackle this serious problem which is affecting the economic conditions of these small and marginal cocoa growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After collection of data the matter shall be examined.

Farm credit from Canada

1463. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canada has agreed to provide loan to India for farm credit;

(b) if so, the amount of the loan; and

(c) the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). Under an Agreement signed on 15th March 1980 between the Governments of India and Canada, the latter has given a loan of Canadian dollar 25 million (Rs. 17.45 crores) to finance Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation's refinancing activities under their programmes in agriculture and allied fields; these programmes include minor irrigation, agro-service centres, animal husbandry, forestry, inland fisheries, marine fisheries benefiting small fishermen, gohar gas plant etc.

The loan is free from interest, commitment and service charges. The repayment period is 50 years including a grace period of 10 years.

Loans from Nationalised Banks under Twenty Point Programme

1464. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Twenty Point Programme, the poor people can get loans from banks to start some business; and

(b) whether some nationalised banks are not giving these loans, if so, what action is going to be taken to get loans for the poor people from all nationalised banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Banks have been financing, on an increasing scale, the borrowers in the weaker sections and in rural areas for self-employment and other productive activities. The Government has decided that the banks should actively participate in the implementation of the 20-Point Programme and increase the share of their Priority Sector Lending from 33.3 per cent to 40 per