

(b) If so, whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table together with the details of action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Women Programme Executives in the A.I.R.

161. Kumari M. Vedakumari: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the number of Women Programme Executives in the All India Radio?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): One, at present.

#### Punaloor Paper Mills Ltd.

162. { Shri V. P. Nayar:  
Shri Kodiyar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punaloor Paper Mills Ltd., Punaloor, has submitted any plans for increasing the production of paper;

(b) if so, the details of the plans; and

(c) whether Government have sanctioned the proposals of the mills?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) No, Sir.

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

#### Development of Handloom Industry

163. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of funds for the development of the handloom industry during the current financial year has been made from the Handloom Cess Fund;

(b) if so, whether a statement showing such allocation to various States will be laid on the Table of the Sabha; and

(c) the basis on which the allocations have been made?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 30].

(c) This is explained in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the First Annual Report of the All India Handloom Board copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

#### Closure of Textile Mills

164. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how many textile mills have so far given notice of closure;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) whether Government have given consideration to the situation created or likely to be created by such closure; and

(d) if so, the steps, if any, that have been taken to remedy the situation?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Seven textile mills issued notice of closure since January 1957 out of which 3 have actually closed down, and two of the mills have already withdrawn notice of closure.

(b) Due to financial stringency and uneconomic working.

(c) and (d). The Government are using their good offices to persuade the mills to withdraw notice of closure as a result of which two mills have already withdrawn notices as mentioned against reply to part (a) of the question. The Government are also considering the question of

having an investigation made in respect of the three mills already closed under section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

#### Displaced Persons in Sunderbans

165. Shri P. N. Kayal: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given so far in the form of loan to the displaced persons settled in the Sunderbans particularly in Swarupnagar, Sondeshkhali, Hasunabad, Basihat Thana areas;

(b) the amount of agricultural loan and non-agricultural loan; and

(c) the nature of employment given to these displaced persons?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

#### कटोरा उद्योगों के लिये प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र

१६६. श्री जांगड़े : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में भक्त रांडी और मामोद्योग बीड द्वारा प्रदर्शित घग्घर चरखे, तेल घानियाँ, चावल कूटने की डेकी आदि के प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र कितने स्थानों में खोले गये हैं; और

(ख) उक्त राज्य में इस प्रकार के कितने चरखे और घानियाँ चल रही हैं ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मुरारजी बेताई) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में घग्घर चरखे, तेल की घानियाँ और हाथ से चावल कूटने का प्रशिक्षण देने के केन्द्र निम्नानुसार हैं :—

घग्घर चरखा	१३
तेल की घानियाँ	१५
हाथ से चावल कुटाई	७

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश में चलने वाले घग्घर चरखों तथा घानियों की संख्या क्रमशः १,४०९ तथा ३३५ हैं।

भगत रांडी के प्रदर्शन के तिलसिले में हमारे पास कोई ठीक ठीक जानकारी नहीं है।

#### Handloom Cess Fund

167. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the amount of Handloom Cess Fund distributed to handloom establishments in the former Malabar District of the Madras State during the years 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): No information is available, as funds are sanctioned to the State Government who are responsible for distributing them for schemes in different parts of the State. During 1954-55, however, a sum of Rs. 1,12,302/8/-, was sanctioned to the State Government for the formation of two Industrial Co-operative Workshops for handloom industry in the Malabar District.

#### Cotton Imports

168. Shri K. G. Deshmukh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of American Cotton that has been imported into India during the year 1956-57;

(b) the quantity of other foreign cotton varieties imported during the same period; and

(c) the production of indigenous cotton during the above period?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Actual imports of American Cotton during the year 1956-57 are 2,58,963 bales.

(b) Actual imports of other foreign cotton varieties during the year 1956-57 are 3,74,163 bales.

(c) Production of cotton is estimated on the basis of cotton season which extends from September to August. For the cotton season starting from September, 1956, it is estimated that the production of cotton will be about 50 lakh bales.