

wherever possible, floor furnishings made of coir in Government owned buildings; and

(b) if so, what is the total value of coir mats and mattings bought for Government owned buildings in the year 1957-58?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) The relevant circular was issued from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the middle of March '58. Its effect, therefore, on the purchase of coir furnishing during the year 1957-58 would not be appreciable.

Closure of Textile Mills

{ Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan
Shri Morarka:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ram Krishan:
*534. { Shri Jadhav:
Shri Nath Pal:
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

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

(a) the number of textile mills closed down since the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of mills in which multiple shifts have been stopped during the same period;

(c) the loss of production due to the closure of these mills and shifts;

(d) the number of workers rendered unemployed as a result of closure of mills and shifts; and

(e) the nature of steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) to (d). Two statements giving the required information are laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 37.]

(e) The present reduction and rationalisation of excise duty particularly in the case of coarse and medium varieties of cloth has been done in order to help the mills to liquidate their stocks and to prevent closure of mills and to restart closed mills. In addition, coarse *dhoties* and sarees lying in packed bales on 3-7-58 have been allowed the concession of clearance at old rates, provided the duty is paid on or before 30-9-1958. Scheduled Banks have at the instance of Government agreed to consider favourably the reduction of the margin of security against advances made by them to the mills.

Nangal Fertilizer-cum-Heavy Water Project

535. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1017 on the 18th March, 1958 and state:

(a) the further progress made so far in the setting up of the Nangal Fertilizer-cum-Heavy Water Project; and

(b) whether the electrical equipment for which order was placed with a British firm has since been received?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) The contract for the entire factory civil works (excluding silos and bagging plant with their ancillary buildings) has been awarded. The order for the supply of accessories and auxiliaries for the electrolysis plant has been placed on an Italian firm on deferred payment terms. Order for the Heavy water plant is under examination of the Government and is expected to be placed shortly.

The first consignment of the electrolyzers comprising 25% of the entire plant has arrived at the factory site