

irrigation during the same years were as under:—

As on the last Friday of	(Amount in lakhs of Rs.)	
	Pumpset & oil engines Amount out-standing	Composit minor irrigation scheme Amount out-standing
1978	867.82	345.91
1979	1335.81	299.60
1980	1338.92	520.62

The data reporting system, however, does not yield information separately for bank loans for shallow tubewells.

Free trade zone near the Capital

2099. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Government proposal for the creation of a free trade zone near the capital city of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the modalities of the function of this port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government has not yet taken a decision to open any more Free Trade Zones|Export Processing Zones in the country.

Increase in viscose staple fibre output

2100. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for a steady fall in viscose staple fibre output;

(b) whether this has been partly caused by the strike in Bombay mills; and

(c) what steps are being considered to increase the indigenous output of staple viscose fibre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b) The production of Viscose Staple Fibre has been lower as compared to last year. However, marginal improvement in monthly production has been registered recently. There are many factors which may have had a significant impact in terms of lower production such as:—

(i) Lock-out in Mavoor factory of Gwalior Rayons and South India Viscose.

(ii) Lower consumption of Viscose Staple Fibre by Cotton mills which could partially be attributed to the textile strike in Bombay.

(iii) Improved availability of cotton at prices which make cotton costs lower as compared to Viscose costs for yarn of comparable counts;

(iv) Utilisation of Viscose Staple Fibre stocks with the cotton mills.

(v) Indigenous manufacturers' also alleged that imports of Viscose Staple Fibre on OGL at low prices are responsible for fall in production.

(c) Customs duty on imports have recently been increased from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. The situation is being kept under constant review.

MMTC not supplying copper

2101. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation is not supplying copper even against full advance payment for the last two months due to which manufacturers are seriously affected;

(b) whether it is also a fact that MMTC has period to supply the materials against advance payment within 48 hours but these materials were not being supplied even after one month of the payment;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to non-supply of copper