

with regard to their livelihood and the need for efforts to get such mills restarted wherever possible. Possibility of running the mill under the ownership of workers cooperative was also discussed.

(c) and (d) U.P. Government have reported that M/s. J.K. Synthetics who were running J.K. Rayons on licence from M/s. J.K. Cotton Spinning & Weaving Mills, the owners, terminated the licence with effect from 16th May, 1983. Government had issued Order No. 561 (E) in the Gazette Extra-ordinary on 6th Aug., 1983 ordering an investigation under Section 15 of the IDR Act, 1951, into the affairs of J.K. Rayons. Owners of the undertaking have obtained a stay order from the Delhi High Court with regard to the operation of the said order and the matter is now sub-judice.

#### **Tenure of Foreign posting of Officers of Commercial Department of Air India**

5299. SHRI DIGAMBAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given Unstarred Question No. 5221 dated 13 August, 1982 regarding extension of stay of officers of AI at the Foreign station and state :

(a) whether tenure of foreign posting of 6 years already availed of by some of the officers of the Commercial Department of Air India will be kept in view, while giving them another foreign posting ; of not, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that contrary to reply given to part (c) of the above question, the officer referred to therein, was given another extension on some ground and why it could not be foreseen by Air India authorities ; and

(c) if so, how it happened and whether all the persons referred to in the Annexure to above reply and other whose tenure had expired, have been recalled ; if not, who are they and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Manager, Catering/ Cabin Services, London has since resigned from the service of Air India. He has, however, been appointed on temporary basis on local terms. Of the remaining ten officers, orders posting nine to India have been issued. One officer viz. Mr. F.J. Fernandes, Manager, Australia has however been retained at Sydney on compassionate grounds upto 29th February, 1984 when he attains the age of superannuation. His only child is undergoing medical treatment for some congenital heart ailment in Australia.

#### **Status of 13 Companies of Caparo Group**

5300. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all 13 companies of the Caparo Group associated with the name of Shri Swraj Paul are individual companies by its own right or 13 names are put up by one group ;

(b) is it a fact that the RBI is in possession of the search papers from the record in the Company House, London, on the 13 Caparo Companies which show that most of these companies have very small capital as compared to the value of shares that they are acquiring in the Escorts and DCM ; and

(c) will the Government ascertain that if the moneys do not belong to these companies what are the sources of funding the purchase of shares by these companies in Indian companies ; are they political foreign funds or is it borrowing against guarantees provided by numbered accounts in Switzerland, Channel Islands Hongkong, Singapore, etc ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Of the 13 companies of the Caparo Group associated

with the name of Shri Swraj Paul (including Caparo Group Limited) 11 companies are wholly owned by Caparo Group Ltd., U. K., and one company is owned to the extent of 98 per cent by the Caparo Group Limited U.K.

(b) According to the Statement furnished by the Caparo Group companies to the R.B.I. Some of them have small capital basis compared to the value of shares acquired in Escorts and D.C.M.

(c) In so far as the remittances are made by these companies in accordance with the provisions of the FERA 1973, and in so far as the R.B.I. has normally to rely only on the declaration made by these companies which are not subject to Indian Laws, it is not possible to go into the question of ascertaining the sources of these funds unless there are definite and concrete allegations of the contravention of the FERA, 1973.

#### Loss Suffered by India by Exporting Coir Products to USSR

5301. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union has placed an order for import of coir products from India, as published in the "Tribune" dated 17th May, 1983 ;

(b) if so, the details of the orders so placed ;

(c) how many orders were placed for import of coir products and its value by East Germany, Eastern European countries and the USSR during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that USSR buys coir products from India against rupee payment and then exports to other countries in foreign exchange depriving India from earning foreign exchange ; and

(e) the extent to which India suffered a loss and steps taken to make-up the loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) USSR imports coir products from India on the basis of Annual Trade Plan Provisions. So far orders placed by USSR for import of coir products worth Rs. 13.26 million have been registered.

(c) A statement showing exports of coir and coir products to countries in Eastern Europe is enclosed.

(d) No such information is available with the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

The export of coir items from India to USSR, East Germany and total for East European Countries during the last three years is shown in the following table.—

	Rs. in million		
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83 (Provisional)
USSR	14.65	21.36	14.27
East Germany	2.03	1.79	3.46
East European Countries (Total)	25.03	29.22	15.29**

\*\*Export of coir products (mats, matting rugs & carpets) only.

(Source : Coir Board)

#### Revision of Policy in Respect of Controlled Cloth

5302. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of controlled cloth at prices which are lower than the cost of production tends to keep a check on prices of other non-controlled varieties ;