

| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|-----|--|---|-----------------|
| 27. | State Bank of India (Madras Local Board) | Shri E. Govindaraj, - 104, East Street, Tirukoilur, S.A. Distt, Tamilnadu. | Scheduled Caste |
| 28. | State Bank of India (Lucknow Local Board) | Shri Motilal Kadam, Behind RTO Compound, Pratap Pura, Agra. | Scheduled Caste |

**Purchase of Rubber Contraceptives from
the factory of Aurangabad**

2928. SHRI J.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1804 on 7th March, 1984 regarding purchase of rubber contraceptive from the factory of Aurangabad and state :

(a) whether the test report on samples submitted by the Company has been received by the Department of Supply by now ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to report the sample submitted by the company is of standard quality as defined in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules made thereunder.

**Impact of Pest Infestation and Adverse
Climatic Conditions on Production of
Cotton**

2929. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether textile mills in the country are apprehensive that a cotton famine is in the offing as the crop in the Northern region has been infected by an unknown variety of pest ;

(b) whether the pest infection in the north coupled with adverse climatic conditions in Central and Western India had raised doubts whether the Cotton Advisory Board's estimate of 77 lakhs bales would be achieved ; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the efforts of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b). Cotton crop during the current cotton season has been affected due to bad weather conditions and pests, resulting in lesser production especially in short and medium staple varieties of cotton. As per assessment made by the Cotton Advisory Board on 14th May, 1984, the cotton production has now been estimated at 77 lakhs bales as against earlier estimate of 85 lakh bales. However, final estimates of cotton production for 1983-84 cotton season have not yet been released.

(c) In order to reduce pressure on available supplies of cotton and to encourage use of viscose staple fibre, Government have recently reduced import duty on viscose staple fibre from 45% to 30% ad-valorem.