vis-a-vis the Study Group estimates is as follows :—

(Rs. crores)

Item of expenditure	Kerala Govt. Scheme Loan	Grants	Study Group's Estimates Likely requirement	Actual requirement
1. Working Capital	12.50	—	4.0	1.0
2. Subsidy on interest	0.50	—	1.0	1.0
3. Share Capital contribution.	—	—	0.45	—
4. Price Fluctuation fund.	—	—	0.50	0.50
5. Godowns and Sales Depots.	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50
6. Managerial assistance	—	1.20	0.44	0.44
7. Additional staff	—	0.35	0.10	0.10
8. Nurseries and creches	—	0.14	—	—
	13.45	2.14	6.09	3·54
	15.59			

The Study Group have also endorsed the views of the Planning Commission, earlier expressed in the discussions with the Kerala Government authorities, that working capital requirements should be met by institutional finance. State funds may, however, be provided as support during the period of switching over to institutional finance. The requirement for this period is estimated to be within Rs. 1.0 crore over the Fourth Plan period. As for the share-capital contribution of Rs. 0.45 crores (which includes Rs. 5 lakhs for the Coir House), the Study Group has recommended that the provision of Rs 0.40 crores for the primary and central societies should be found by conversion of the working capital loans already advanced by the Government into equity. Welfare schemes for nurseries and creches should, appropriately, be financed from the State Plan provision for social services. Thus, the Study Group has recommended a total provision of Rs. 3 54 crores for Kerala's Coir Industry for the entire Fourth Plan period.

There is a total approved Fourth Plan provision of Rs. 10.43 crores for the development of Kerala's village and small industries, out of which the State Government has made a provision of Rs. 3 0 crores for the Coir Industry. A balance of Rs. 2.033 crores is still available for the implementation of the scheme during the 3 years 1971-74. It is assessed on the basis of Kerala's Plan finance spending during the past two years, that the total expenditure over the Fourth Plan period for Kerala's Coir Industry may not exceed the approved outlay of Rs. 3.0 crores. In case, however, expenditure in excess of the approved outlay became necessary for the implementation of the Study Group's recommendations, the State Government would have to adjust the excess amount within the total approved Plan outlay for the Kerala State, on an annual basis, in accordance with the Planning Commission's view on the subject.

Legislative measures to Eliminate Monopoly in the Press

1032. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether inaugurating the 15th Annual Conference of the Indian Federation of Working Journalis s, he had said that the time had now come when steps must be taken to eliminate "monopoly' in the Press ;

(b) whether in his address, he emphasized the need for a thorough examination of the entire question so as to remove the legal hurdles which came in the way of a free Press in the country ;

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the measures so far taken in this regard and whether these measures helped to check the growth of Press monopoly and, if so, to what extent ; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to initiate a comprehensive legislation for the purpose and, if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) and (b). The 15th Annual Conference of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists was inaugurated by my colleague, the Minister of Law and Justice, who *inter alia* emphasised the need for measures to prevent the growth of monopolies in the Indian Press.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House setting out the steps taken so far by this Ministry to contain the growth of monopolies in the Indian Press.

Statement

Government is fully alive to the danger of concentration of ownership in the newspaper industry which may result in regimentation of thought and opinion and is anxious to prevent such developments as far as practicable. Towards this end, the following steps have been taken :—

(i) The Press Registrar makes an annual review of the ownership of newspapers and periodicals, and studies the development of common ownership units and publishes them in a publication called "Press in India", so that the public may become aware of the facts relating to the ownership of newspapers.

(ii) Under the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules, 1956 framed under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, it is obligatory for newspapers to publish annually in the first issue after the last day of February information, *inter alia*, relating to the individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total share capital. Failure to comply with this statutory obligation is an offence under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 which is punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 500/-.

(iii) Under the Newsprint Allocation Policy, additional newsprint is not issued to a group or chain of newspapers for bringing out a fresh publication.

(iv) On the recommendation of the total annual foreign exchange made available for printing and composing machinery 50% is allotted to small newspapers (up to 15,000 circulation), 35% to medium newspapers (circulation 15,000—50,000) and only 15% is allotted to big newspapers (circulation over 50,000).

(v) Government's advertisement policy aim at staggering and releasing advertisements to newspapers in suitable rotation in order to ensure the use of as many papers as possible so that papers with a big circulation do no get a large share of Government's advertisements It is the policy of Government to make increasing use of small and medium newspapers, particularly those published in Indian languages

(vi) With a view to obtaining first-hand and detailed factual information regarding the methods of unfair competition and/or restrictive practices, if any, adopted by the larger newspapers to suppress, weaken and eliminate the smaller ones about which there are often complaints, a sub-committee, set-up by the Press Council, invited specific information and instances by a letter addressed to newspapers and periodicals in all languages having a paid circulation af 5,000 copies and above. In reply, only ten dailies and four weeklies mentioned specific cases of what they considered restrictive practices indulged in by bigger papers. The Council is currently pursuing the enquiry by collecting further information regarding instances of restrictive practices.

(vii) Government are considering the question of setting up a Newspaper Finance Corporation to give financial assistance to small and medium newspapers and not to big newspapers, to help the healthy growth of the former.

(viii) (a) Government are of the view that but for the steps taken by the Government so far the growth of big chain newspapers would have been more than what it has been. It is not, however, possible to estimate the extent to which steps already taken by Government have been effective. Government believe that the best way to check the growth of big chain newspapers is to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers which are managed on healthy lines and follow an enlightened editorial policy keeping the national interests in view. Government are confident that the steps already taken and the further steps to be taken in the matter will effectively foster the growth of small and medium newspapers and thereby check the growth of big chain newspapers.

(viii) (b) As recommended by the Diwakar Committee on Small Newspapers, Government have started a slow speed news bulletin over the All India Radio which purveys important news, particularly for use by small and medium newspapers who, due to financial reasons, are not in a position to subscribe to the service of news agencies.

A departmental study of the ownership pattern of the companies publishing newspapers has been instituted by the Department of Company Affairs. The conclusions of the study are awaited.

Taking over Balarama Varma Textile Mill by Textile Corporation

1033. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :
SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any letter from the Tamil Nadu Government to take over the closed Balarma Varma Textile Mills, Shenkottai (Tamilnadu) through the Textile Corporation ; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The mill has not been considered to be a fit one being taken over, under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1961.

Closure of Jute Mills in West Bengal

1034. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that several jute mills in West Bengal are in a