

(b) Financial assistance for the development of the handloom industry in Kerala is being given as part of the block loans and grants given to the State Government for annual plans of the State. A request for extension of refinancing facilities to Kerala Handloom Finance Corporation was also received from the State Government but it was not found possible to accede to it.

Decision to participate in Algiers Fair

1646. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :
SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has decided to participate in the Algiers Fair to be held in August, 1971 ;

(b) if so, the items to be displayed at the Fair ; and

(c) the total expenditure involved ?

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

(b) Engineering Goods, textiles of all kinds, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, leather manufactures, handicrafts and handlooms food stuffs, coir articles etc., are categories of goods that would be exhibited. A list of important items is attached.

(c) The estimated expenditure involved will be Rs. 4.60 lakhs including Rs. 3.80 lakhs in foreign exchange.

Statement

List of articles being procured for display in the Algerian International Trade Fair, August 27th to September 12, 1971.

1. Diesel Engines of all types.
2. Agricultural Machinery and pump-sets.
3. Sewing machines and Fans.
4. Typewriters.
5. Refrigerators.

6. Air-conditioners.
7. Radios, Transistors, Sound-equipments.
8. Telecommunication equipment.
9. Automobile accessories.
10. Watches and Clocks.
11. Electrical goods and appliances.
12. Jute products.
13. Hardware items.
14. Plastic goods.
15. Steel tubes.
16. Stainless steel products.
17. Surgical instruments.
18. Consumer goods.
19. Chemicals and pharmaceuticals.
20. Coir products.
21. All types of textiles.
22. Hosiery items.
23. Ready-made garments.
24. Handloom products.
25. Leather goods.
26. Tobacco manufactures.
27. Spices.
28. Aggarbatties and incense sticks.
29. Harna Powder.
30. Handicrafts items etc.

Report of Madan Kishore Commission

1647. SHRI KRISHNA HALDER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had appointed a commission, called Madan Kishore Commission, to inquire into the grievances of the Extra-Departmental employees in the Posts and Telegraphs Department ;

(b) whether the Commission has submitted its report to Government ;

(c) if so, the main findings of the Commission thereon ; and

(d) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, the reason for the inordinate delay in submitting the report ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes. A one-man committee headed by Shri Madan Kishore, retired Member, P & T Board was set up in October '70 to examine among other things the basis for remunerating the services of the Extra Departmental Agents.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Committee was required to submit its report within one year from the date of its formation. As such report is expected only by October '71.

Extention of Indo-Japan Trade Agreement for Export of Iron ore

1648. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the Economic Times, Bombay in its issue dated the 27th April, 1971 entitled "Iron Ore Export : Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation faces mounting losses" ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ;

(c) whether a move is about for the extension of the eight years' agreement with Japan for the export of iron ore ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) As had already been pointed out on the 16th December, 1970, in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4896 by the Hon'ble Member, the main factor affecting the economics of iron ore exports is the

transport cost involved in the procurement of the ore from areas far away from the sea ports.

(c) and (d). The particular long-term contract referred to covers the exports of lumpy iron ore from Bailadila via Visakhapatnam Port. Deliveries against this contract during 1970-71 constitute only about one-fourth of the total iron ore exports of about 12 million tonnes by the M. M. T. C.. This contract runs till April, 1980. Hence, the question of its extension does not arise at this stage.

Small and Medium Newspapers

1649. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 72 on the 1st April, 1971 regarding monopolies in Newspapers Industry and state :

(a) the positive steps taken by Government during the last three years to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers ; and

(b) the outcome of the steps so far taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House setting out the steps taken so far by the Ministry to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers.

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,