

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) Yes, by the Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals.

(b) The request is under consideration.

Promotion of Trade with East European Countries

315. SHRI SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made to find out the effect of bilateral trade on the growth of trade in non-traditional goods with the East European countries ; and

(b) whether Government have plans to conduct market surveys and exchange of trade visits to promote trade with the East European countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The export of principal non-traditional items including iron ore, textiles and leather, accounts for approximately one-third of India's exports to East European countries.

(b) For promoting trade between India and East European countries, trade delegations are exchanged annually. Marketing information is also collected as and when necessary.

Shortage of Jute due to Bangla Desh Crisis

316. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the situation in Bangla Desh will create a World shortage of 1.5 lakh tonnes of jute goods ;

(b) whether Government have devised ways and means to deal with this demand ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) to (c). While no definite information is available as regards the extent to which production of jute goods in East Bengal has been affected, there is likely to be some loss of production. Measures to step up production of jute goods in India as far as possible to meet the shortage have been discussed with representatives of the jute industry and production plans are being drawn up by the industry.

Modernisation of Textile Industry

317. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised a blueprint for the modernisation of textile industry in the country ;

(b) if so, the types of mills that will come within the purview of this scheme ; and

(c) the details of the scheme and when it will come into force ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories on Rural Development

318. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the PRIME MINISTER (PRADHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had convened a Conference of the Chief Secretaries of States and the Union Territories in April, 1971 to discuss the problem of rural development ;

(b) if so, whether it was stressed upon them by Government to implement the Plans quickly ;

(c) other subjects discussed ; and

(d) the decisions arrived at ?