

imposed by Government on the export of nylon tyres to the U.A.R. ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether there is any possibility of lifting the ban with a view to enable the tyre manufactures to compete in the U.A.R. market with others ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). No, Sir ; the export of nylon tyres to the U.A.R. is not banned, as such. In July, 1970 the two Governments had mutually agreed to a list of items allowed to be traded between the two countries through the "Special Trade Arrangements", and Nylon tyres do not appear in the mutually agreed list. However, there is no ban to their export outside these arrangements under normal commercial considerations.

Revival of Sick Jute Units

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

(a) the steps taken by Government to overcome short fall in the production of jute, the restricted production capacity, the labour unrest and high prices ; and

(b) the measures taken for the revival of about a dozen sick units which had been closed down, leaving 22,000 workers unemployed ?

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

(b) Of the 12 closed jute mills, 3 have since re-opened and started working. Efforts are now being made to re-open 2 others. The remaining 7 mills have old and obsolete machinery and are unable to work economically. The possibility of reviving these units is remote ; however, all possible measures are being taken to see whether they can be re-opened.

Statement

(1) *Jute Production* : The Special Package Programme on Jute is being extended from

36,000 hectares to 90,000 hectares in 1971-72. Complete saturation with all developmental inputs has been aimed at in the areas selected for the programme. Similar arrangements are being made also for Mesta. The area under aerial spraying of urea, subsidised distribution of improved seeds, foliar spraying have also been extended. A new scheme for ground spraying of urea has also been undertaken. The crop in 1971-72 is expected to be good.

(2) *Restricted production capacity* : In order to increase production capacity, mills are being encouraged to instal additional spinning and preparatory machinery. Mills have also agreed to work extra shifts and also to work on Sundays.

(3) *Labour unrest* : Following the strike in jute industry in December, 1970, settlement was reached on outstanding issues.

(4) *High Prices* : With the anticipated increase in production of jute and jute goods prices are expected to come down. A number of steps including imposition of margin and ceiling restrictions and periodical closure of hedge market were taken by the East India Jute and Hessian Exchange in the forward and futures markets for jute goods with a view to curbing speculative pressures.

Export of Indian Handloom

401. SHRI KRISHNA HALDER : Will the Minister FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any improvement in the Indian Handloom export between 1967-68 to 1969-70 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether there will be any slump in the current year's export ?

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

(b) The figures of exports were as follows :—

Year	Handloom export (in '000' Rs.)
1967-68	— 116992
1968-69	— 157704
1969-70	— 301306