

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the important steps taken in this connection is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government have taken the following steps to promote the production of leather garments :

1. The Government has set up the Export Promotion Council for Finished Leather & Leather Manufactures, Kanpur, which imports samples of leather garments from time to time for augmenting export production. These samples are shown to its constituents to have a first hand idea of the type of leather used in the manufacture of these items as well as the type of lining, fashion and stitching thereon.

2. Import of machinery required for production of Garment Leather and Leather Garments under the capital goods scheme is allowed.

3. The Government has established recently Trade Development Authority, which has taken into its ambit production and promotion of export of leather garments of its clientele on micro-level.

4. Industrial units with substantial exports are eligible for preferential consideration in regard to expansion of licensed capacity, technical and managerial assistance for upgrading of quality, licensing of current requirements of maintenance, import of raw material, components and consumable stores from preferred sources of supply etc.

5. 15% import replenishment against export of leather garments.

Scheme for research in Coir Product Potential

360. SHRI V. MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated action to conduct purposeful researches in coir not only to improve the quality and reduce costs but also to exploit its new product potential;

(b) whether the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has recommended a scheme for this purpose costing Rs. 33 lakhs; and

(c) if so, the salient feature of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A full-fledged Research Institute is functioning under the Coir Board and the Government are, at present, examining an elaborate scheme for augmenting the research activities on Coir.

(b) The final Report of the Survey on coir industry undertaken by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has not yet been submitted to the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Loss of Jute Production

361. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the jute production loss amounting to about 295,000 tonnes valued at nearly Rs. 88 crores;

(b) the steps taken by government to avoid this kind of enormous production loss in future; and

(c) the kind of assistance being given to the industry in regard to payment of compensation for forced lay-off ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Apart from a production loss of about 18,500 tonnes of jute goods valued at about Rs. 6.48 crores due to power failure during January-September, 1971, no information is available of any other loss of production.

(b) Government of West Bengal have set up a High Power Committee to undertake a continuous review of this problem. Consumption of electric power is also being regulated during peak hour. This should ensure steadier and equitable distribution of power.

(c) No assistance is being given by Government in this behalf.

Decline in Export of Pepper

362. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the fall in the export of pepper from 19,800 tonnes in 1969-70 to about 17,000 tonnes in 1970-71; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove the handicaps in the export of pepper ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) In 1969-70, Indonesian crop was very low and the attractive prices and good demand resulted in higher exports than 1970-71, when the country's production dropped and with a lower carry over stocks and increased domestic demand, the exportable surplus was less.

(b) Agriculture Ministry is taking steps to increase the production.

Shipment of PL-480 Cotton

363. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the assurance given by the American Trade Delegation, which recently visited India, regarding the shipment of the balance quantity of P. L.-480 cotton is being implemented by the U. S. authorities; and

(b) whether the U.S.A. has agreed to India's contention of not accepting the res-

ponsibility for payment of carrying charges for the balance quantity of PL-480 cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation has agreed to advise the members of the Shippers Association not to press claims about payment of carrying charges.

Revision of Export Policy for Raw Cotton

364. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for revising the export policy for raw cotton;

(b) whether this revision is likely to affect the export of raw cotton; and

(c) the main features of the revised export policy for raw cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). During the current year, export of raw cotton, mainly Bengal Deshi has been allowed to the extent of two lakh bales. This ceiling represents the average annual exports from India during the past five-six years.

The introduction of quantitative ceiling does not materially affect the export trend but provides for adequate quantity for exports leaving balance for possible greater consumption of these varieties of cotton in the country.

Import Licences for Leather Industry

365. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending licences for the import of machinery for the leather industry;