

(b) The mill has been incurring losses mainly due to the following reasons :

- (1) High cost of raw materials, specially cotton;
- (2) technical deficiencies of the mill due to its obsolete and worn-out machinery.

The following steps have been taken to improve the working efficiency of the mill :

- (1) modernisation programmes at an estimated cost of Rs. 493 lakhs have been drawn up;
- (2) steps are being taken to strengthen its management; and
- (3) the manufacturing programme is being looked into with a view to achieving better sales realisation coupled with economy in the cost of production.

**Transfer of General Managers of
Northeast Frontier Railway**

2299. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether within 14 years of its existence, the Northeast Frontier Railway has had 17 General Managers;

(b) if so, the reasons for such quick changes of General Managers of Northeast Frontier Railway; and

(c) whether there is any other Railway Zone, where such quick changes of General Managers have taken place within such a short period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Since its formation 14 officers have worked as General Managers of the Northeast Frontier Railway, three of whom had worked in that capacity in two spells each.

(b) Change in the incumbents of the posts of General Managers are ordered taking into account all the relevant factors.

(c) No, Sir.

Protection to Jute Growers

2300. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity, in bales or maunds, of Assam Bottom jute, purchased by (i) The Jute Corporation of India, (ii) S. T. C. and (iii) any other Government agency during the months of September, October and November, 1971 in Assam; and

(b) whether Government are aware that Assam Bottom jute is selling at lower price than fixed by Government per maund as supporting price, and if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the growers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) : (i) Nil.

(ii) 27,150 Mds. upto 18-11-71.

(iii) Nil.

(b) Jute prices in Assam were ruling above the minimum support price till the end of September, 1971. From the beginning of October, 1971, prices tended to fall below the minimum price owing mainly to disruption in rail movement caused by the unprecedented floods and breaches to track. The S. T. C. has undertaken purchase operations in Assam to give price support. With the improvement in rail transport facilities and purchases by S.T.C. prices in most of the markets in Assam are currently ruling around the minimum support level.

Import of luxury cars

2301. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and price of luxury