

(4) Special assistance of Rs. 24 crores should be provided for all the States for installation of shut capacitors to reduce energy losses, stabilising voltage condition so as to improve the supply of electricity to rural areas.

(5) In the Fifth Plan the outlays in the State Plans for rural electrification should be specifically earmarked as was done during 3rd Plan period.

(6) Strengthening of the Technical Organisation by State Electricity Boards.

(7) Co-ordination of Planning and implementation of schemes with other Departments and agencies connected with agriculture, irrigation, electricity and industries.

(8) Setting up of Training Centres and Rural Co-operatives in backward States. Adding a view in Rural Electrification Corporation for planning the procurement of raw materials and equipments for States which are backward in rural electrification.

(c) and (d). The report of the Committee is under examination.

Opening of T. D. A. Offices in Foreign Countries

1247. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Trade Development Authority propose to open offices in a number of countries;

(b) if so, the countries where Offices are being opened and the purpose thereof; and

(c) the extent to which our foreign trade earnings are likely to increase consequently ?

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

(b) and (c). It is proposed to open foreign offices of the Trade Development Authority in Federal Republic of Germany and in United States of America. The main purpose of these offices would be :

(i) to generate merchandising enquiries for the Trade Development Authority's clients in respect of TDA'S range of products ; and

(ii) to collect export intelligence for

building up the Information Service of TDA, which is being developed for the benefit of the exporters.

2. It is not possible to quantify at this stage the increase in our foreign trade earnings likely to be achieved as a result of the opening of these offices.

Distribution of Russian Cotton to Mills

1248. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet cotton is being compulsorily distributed to all mills on spindle basis;

(b) whether attention of Government in this regard has been invited to a report in the *Economic Times* of the 23rd June, 1972; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). Government have seen the report captioned "Soviet cotton forced on mills" appearing in the *Economic Times* of 23rd June, 1972. The report does not represent the correct position. Russian cotton imported in terms of the cotton conversion deal entered into between the two countries last year, is being allotted to textile mills on spindle shift working basis calculated and furnished by Indian Cotton Mills Federation. The Mills receiving the allocation will be permitted by the Textile Commissioner to sell the cotton on being approached.

New Iron ore markets captured by India

1249. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is making efforts to explore new markets for iron ores;

(b) the new markets, if any, captured by India during last year and the salient features thereof; and

(c) the total foreign exchange earned by way of exports of iron ore during the last two years, year-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Exploration of new markets for export of iron ore is a constant exercise.