

Scheme to meet shortage of cotton

1344. SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI :
SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has prepared a scheme for Government to take regulatory measures to ease the situation arising out of the shortage and high prices of cotton and unsatisfactory working conditions of the cotton mills ;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme ; and

(c) how far these steps will result in improvement in the working of textile mills ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No Sir.

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

Soviet assistance for export-oriented industries

1345. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY :
DR. H. P. SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received an offer of financial assistance from the Soviet Union to set up export-oriented industries whose produce would be mainly exported to that country ;

(b) if so, what are the industries proposed to be so set up ; and

(c) whether Government propose to locate these industries in the industrially backward regions of the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) During the visit of the Minister of Foreign Trade to Moscow in May this year preliminary discussion took place with the USSR Authorities on the question of setting up export-oriented industries in India with Soviet assistance, including offer of credit facilities.

(b) and (c). The matter is still being processed.

Duty on inter-state sale of electricity

1346. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY :
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments are still levying duty or tax on inter-State sale of electricity ;

(b) if so, the names of the States and the quantum of duty or tax levied by them ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to discontinue this levy ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and the Delhi Municipal Corporation levied electricity duty Rs. 96,600; 37,33,110 ; 7,26,500 and 2,87,960 respectively during the year 1970-71. The question of exempting the inter-State sale of power from the levy of duty/tax by the States was considered in the recent Conference of the State Ministers of Irrigation and Power held at Srinagar from 29.6.1972 to 1.7.72. The Conference noted in recognition of the need for optimum utilisation of power generation and transmission facilities and in order to encourage inter-State sale of power a number of States have already exempted such sale from the levy of duty/tax and recommended that all the States should follow the practice of exemption of inter-State sale of electricity from the levy of electricity duty/tax. The States have been requested to implement the recommendation.

Disparity in cost of power resulting in regional imbalances

1347. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY :
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the considerable inter-state disparity in the cost of power for industries due to variation in the nature and cost of power-generation in different States resulting in regional imbalances ; and

(b) if so, the steps that are contemplated to bring about uniformity in this regard ?