

Reorganisation of Coir Industry in Kerala

3144. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the centre has not yet given to Kerala Rs. 1.5 crores for the reorganisation of coir industry as proposed by the Study Group of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when it is likely to be given?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). The Study Group set up by the Planning Commission did not make any proposal to give Rs. 1.50 crores to the Kerala Government for the reorganisation of the coir industry. However, a request for the grant of a soft-loan of Rs. 1.50 crores for revitalising the coir industry in Kerala was received from the State Government. The proposal sent by the State Government mainly related to revitalising 25 cooperative societies. Detailed steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the societies would become viable and credit worthy had not been indicated. The State Government was informed that unless future viability and satisfactory working of the societies was ensured, interim assistance would not be of abiding value. It was proposed to send a team of officers to discuss the matter in detail, but the State Government have not accepted this proposal.

Rehabilitation of Oustees of Pong Dam

3145. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to rehabilitate the skilled and unskilled labour that will become surplus with the completion of Pong Dam;

(b) whether thousands of oustees of Pong Dam are not yet settled in the Rajasthan Canal area as was decided at the time of the construction of the dam; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) At present so far as possible the workmen rendered surplus at Pong Dam (Beas Project Unit-II) are being accommodated against vacancies on Unit-I of the Project. Efforts will also be made to obtain preferential treatment for the workers of this Project for appointment in similar other projects in the region as far as possible.

(b) and (c). There has been some delay in the rehabilitation of oustees on account of divergence of views between Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh on matters relating to eligibility of oustees for allotment of land in Rajasthan Canal area. The matter has been almost resolved and it would now be possible to expedite the movement of the oustees from Pong Dam Area to Rajasthan.

Decision taken to construct Thein-Dam

3146. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any definite decisions has been taken for the construction of Thein Dam; and

(b) if so, the time by which Government expect to start the work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) and (b). It has been decided that a Dam on a river Ravi will be constructed at Thein, but there are some inter-state aspects of the Project, which are yet to be settled among the concerned States. These matters are still under discussion with the States.

Indian Handicrafts Emporia Abroad

3147. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the names of the countries in which emporia of Indian handicrafts have been opened and what is the financial position of these emporia?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): The Handicrafts & Handlooms Exports Corporation runs four "SONA" shops abroad which also sell Indian Handicrafts. These are located at New York, Boston, Nairobi and Paris. The profit/loss