

concluded contracts with Techmashe-export, Moscow, for the import of printing machinery worth about Rs. 8 lakhs and Rs. 79 lakhs respectively.

Seminar on Textiles

715. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day Seminar on textiles was held in New Delhi in the 2nd week of December, 1972;

(b) if so, whether the seminar was organised by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; and

(c) whether the Seminar has decided to constitute a high level group under the Indian Institute of foreign trade, and if so, the functions thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Seminar recommended a High Level Group under the convenorship of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade be set up to recommend to the Government modalities, norms and operational details of financing modernisation of textile industry through a special financial corporation.

Alleged Discrimination against Harijans in the S.B.I. New Delhi

716. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 803 on 4th August, 1972 and state:

(a) whether investigation by the State Bank of India into the allegations about the discrimination against Harijans in the State Bank of India, Ajmal Khan Branch, New Delhi has been completed;

(b) if so, with what result;

(c) whether Government have received further communications from the 'Shoshit Samaj Ekata Committee', New Delhi dated 1st January, 1973; and

(d) if so, the points raised therein, and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) and (b). State Bank of India have informed Government that the investigations carried out by them do not reveal any discrimination against Harijans in the State Bank of India, Ajmal Khan Road Branch, New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The representation from the Shoshit Samaj Ekata Committee besides referring to the allegations about discrimination against Harijans in the State Bank of India, Ajmal Khan Branch, New Delhi, also contains suggestions about the procedure for getting names from Employment Exchanges, etc. for reserved vacancies.

Government have already issued detailed instructions to the Bank, regarding the filling up of reserved posts for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates.

Import of Cocoa Nut and Areca Nut

717. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity in tonnes and value in Rupees of Cocoa Nut and Areca Nut imported into this country during the years 1971 and 1972; and

(b) what is the quantity in tonnes of these two commodities that is likely to be imported during the year 1973?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Import figures for the calendar years 1971 and 1972 are not available as foreign trade statistics are compiled on financial year-