

(b) if not, when such scheme is likely to be drawn up and when work will be started in Tripura as per declaration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). A letter of Intent has been issued in favour of the Government of Tripura for setting up a jute mill with a capacity of 200 looms for the production of 13,872 tonnes of sacking and hessian. The Letter of Intent is valid upto 29th July, 1974.

Shortage of Yarn for Handloom Cottage Industry in Tripura

4316. **SHRI DASARATHA DEB:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Handloom Cottage industries, particularly those started by Tribal Manipuri women in Tripura, have been suffering a lot from non-availability of yarns at reasonable prices in Tripura; and

(b) if so, what assistance Government of India propose to provide to them through the State Government to protect the Cottage Industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) There has been a shortfall in yarn production in the country, following power-cuts. In this context, Government had received some reports about shortage of yarn in Tripura State.

(b) The Textile Commissioner is making allocations of yarn according to the pattern of requirements of the State Government out of the quantities available for allocation. Production of yarn is also likely to improve, following removal of power-cuts.

Exports to and Imports from Bangladesh

4317. **SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what has been the value of India's exports to Bangladesh and imports from that country so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): According to the figures maintained by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India's Exports to Bangladesh during April—December, 1972, were of the order of Rs. 59.80 crores as against imports valued at Rs. 1.64 crores for the same period. Figures of our trade with Bangladesh beyond December, 1972, are not available.

Seeking of permission by Punjab Government to Feed Pure Opium to Addicts

4318. **SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have sought permission from the Centre "to feed" pure opium to the addicts in the State;

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

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Opium free from all adulterants, is supplied to the State Governments including Punjab, for issue on medical grounds to registered opium addicts, on the basis of requisition made by the State Governments. 16.5 kilogram of opium were supplied to the Government of Punjab in 1972-73. No requisition for the year 1973-74 or any other proposal in this regard has so far been received from the Government of Punjab.

(b) and (c). In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.