

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal, as such, to write off the advances in question. However, in individual cases the unpaid advances are written off where State Government/authorities concerned are satisfied that the amount is beyond recovery for reasons, such as destitution or death of the evacuee who has left behind no property, etc.

REQUIREMENT AND PRODUCTION OF TEXTILE MACHINERY

3174. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the requirement and production of textile machinery in the country expected in the next three years;

(b) whether any shortfall is expected in the production; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The requirement of textile machinery during the Fifth Five Year Plan period on account of modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion has been roughly estimated to be of the value of Rs. 1,300 crores. However, the capability of the textile mills to finance this requirements could, in fact, be substantially less than this figure. There has been a considerable degree of under-utilisation in the field of textile machinery and it would be possible for the industry to supply the equipments commensurate with the needs of the textile industry in a particular time frame. Government is taking advance steps to ensure adequate supply of pig iron, coke, steel and stainless steel etc. Steps are also being taken to remove other bottlenecks coming in the way of higher production of textile machinery.

POTASH FROM SEA

3175. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to explore Potash from the Sea; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

BLACK MARKETING OF STATIONERY AND PAPERS OF DEFENCE MINISTRY

3176. SHRI YOGESH CHANDRA MURMU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some two trucks of stationery and papers of the Defence Ministry were being smuggled out for sale on black market or for some other use four-five months ago;

(b) if so, who were the guilty officers and persons and whether the culprits were caught red-handed and they have not brought to book so far; and

(c) what steps are being taken to punish the guilty persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

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

LABOUR UNREST

3177. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASS MUNSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister has expressed her deep concern about the labour unrest in India in the last meeting at Pondicherry on 17th February, 1974 and has asked the working class for more production;