

implementation. This programme envisages the expansion of capacity from 30,000 to 75,000 tonnes per annum before the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan period. This will involve total capital outlay of Rs. 11.32 crores including a foreign exchange expenditure of Rs. 4.03 crores. Orders have already been placed for "Paper Section" and "Recovery Section", and machinery for the former has started arriving, orders for "Pulping Section" will be placed shortly. The "Paper Section" is expected to come into operation by May, 1968.

(c) and (d). The quality of Newsprint produced by Nepa Mills has already improved and there has been no complaint on this account from the Consumers in the recent past.

#### Textile Mills in M.P.

1265. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several textile mills in Madhya Pradesh are threatened with closure for want of adequate supply of cotton;

(b) whether the State Government or the management of the mills have written to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether some mills are also in the grip of financial stringency;

(d) if so, whether they have sought any assistance from Government; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to save the textile industry in Madhya Pradesh?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Some mills are reported to be in financial difficulties.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Each case where a request is received for financial assistance to a cotton textile mill is considered on merits, taking into account the economic viability and the financial position of the mill.

#### Railway Line between Tirunelveli and Trivandrum

1266. Dr. M. Santesham: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the proposed new railway line from Tirunelveli to Trivandrum via Nagercoil and Kanyakumari; and

(b) whether the scheme has been included in the Fourth Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). The proposals for new railway lines to be taken up during the Fourth Plan have not yet been finalised. Engineering and Traffic Surveys for this line have been carried out and the survey reports are presently under examination.

#### Export of Iron Ore

1267. Shri Dhironnath: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team has been sent to East Europe for pushing the sale of iron ore; and

(b) if so, how many contracts have been concluded by the team?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sale Contracts have been concluded by the team for the export of about 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore to Czechoslovakia, Poland, G.D.R. and Hungary which were the countries visited by the team. This is in addition to the contracts earlier concluded with Rumania and Yugoslavia for about 0.8 million tonnes.

#### Jessop Co. Ltd., Calcutta

1268. Shri K. N. Fanday: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended the control on Jessop & Co. Ltd., Calcutta; and