

**The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). About 960 tonnes of lemon grass oil were purchased by the State Trading Corporation as a price support measure. More than 90 p.c. of this quantity has already been sold to foreign buyers. The remaining small quantity is also expected to be sold shortly.

**Shri Warrior:** Is the STC buying only through the middle men or is it buying from the producers direct?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Direct from the producers.

**Shri Warrior:** Is it a fact that the STC has only very few purchasing depots in the area, and those depots are far away from the region of production by the small producer?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** You can very well judge from the fact that out of 1,100 tons, STC has purchased 980 tons.

#### Yarn Purchase by Powerloom Owners

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\*1278. { **Shri Jedhe:**  
           { **Shri Lonikar:**  
           { **Shri M. L. Jadhav:**

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prior permission of the Textile Commissioner has to be obtained by the powerloom owners for the purchase of yarn on sized beams or weft pirns;

(b) whether this formality causes great hardships to the powerloom owners; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to remove such hardship?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. I may add that there is restriction on sale.

**Shri Jedhe:** May I know whether there have been any complaints regarding difficulties experienced by powerlooms?

**Shri Kanungo:** No, Sir. We have received no complaints, nor has the Textile Commissioner.

#### Gypsum

\*1279. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the various industrial uses of gypsum in India;

(b) whether Government are considering the location of any industries in the areas where gypsum is found; and

(c) whether Government have experienced any difficulties in respect of the supply of gypsum for certain industries which are located at considerable distances from the areas where gypsum is found?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Gypsum is mainly used in the manufacture of Fertiliser and Cement. In Ceramic Industry, the use of gypsum is limited to the manufacture of plaster of Paris from which moulds are made.

(b) No Sir; not at present.

(c) The Sindri Unit of the Fertiliser Corporation of India, which is situated at a very considerable distance from the sources of gypsum, is experiencing some difficulty with respect to the supply of gypsum from Rajasthan, both in respect of its quality and adequacy of supplies.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** In view of the fact that the Government have admitted in the statement laid on the Table of the House that difficulty is being experienced with regard to the supply of gypsum from Rajasthan both in terms of quality and adequacy, of supplies, may I know what is the reason why Government have not considered or do not propose to con-