

exchange, bring about fuller utilisation of the facilities already developed at Kandla port and to increase the employment potential of the area. Major position of the development works has been completed by the end of March, 1968.

A number of approved parties have taken possession of developed plots/sheds. Plans of construction submitted by 26 parties have been approved. Four units have already gone into production and goods worth over Rs. 15 lakhs have been exported. Many more units are expected to start production and exports during this year. As the industrial activity develops there will be substantial earning in foreign exchange and employment opportunities will also increase.

(c) The special facilities offered to the industries in the Kandla Free Trade Zone are :—

- (i) Exemption from customs duties for plant, machinery, raw materials and components as also exemption from Central Excise Duty on raw materials and components. Central Excise Duty is not levied on products manufactured and exported from the zone.
- (ii) Allotment of developed plots and built up Industrial sheds on reasonable rent.
- (iii) Grant of advance import licences for raw materials, components etc. required for first six months production without the condition of firm export orders.
- (iv) Requests for higher inputs than those allowed to registered exporters in other parts of the country are also permissible on merits.

The Government have so far spent about Rs. 76 lakhs out of Rs. 84.35 lakhs sanctioned for the development works.

(d) The Government propose to wait for the results of the Kandla Free Trade Zone whose progress is being watched before considering setting up more zones.

Rail Service on Delhi Rohtak Section

7458. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government's attention has

been drawn to the deplorable condition of rail service on Delhi-Rohtak section particularly the trains which run at office hours for daily passengers ;

(b) whether the persistent inefficiency of the Railway in operating 2 DKR, 341 UP and 37 UP trains has aggravated the difficulties of the office goers who come to Delhi daily ;

(c) whether these trains leave their originating stations sometimes late by as much as 4 to 5 hours ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the train service on this section so that the daily passengers may be able to reach in time ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Government's attention has been drawn, by a few complaints to late running of certain trains on Delhi-Rohtak section.

(b) Office goers who come to Delhi use *inter alia* 2 DKR and 341 Up trains and not 37 Up Mail. Late running of the former two trains is not persistent.

(c) No, except on extremely rare occasions when any abnormal situation develops.

(d) Train running is closely watched at all levels and all avoidable detentions are taken up, and, where necessary, staff responsible for detentions are also dealt with suitably. Priority is given to running of all trains carrying suburban traffic and in this list are included the above mentioned trains. Other long-term measures are under consideration to improve the facilities in and around Delhi area to facilitate the punctual running of all trains including suburban trains.

Manufacture of Heavy Chemicals Equipment

7459. SHRI R. BARUA :
SHRI M. S. OBEROI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given up plan to set up a plant for the manufacture of heavy chemical equipment in the public sector with Rumanian assistance ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether any other project of this kind in collaboration with some other foreign party/country is in the offing ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) It has been decided to defer the setting up of the plant for the manufacture of fertiliser and chemical equipment with Rumanian assistance for the present.

(b) Due to downward revision of the targets of many of the end-user industries, e.g., chemical, refining and fertiliser, a re-assessment of the equipment required by these industries was made and it was ascertained that the indigenous capacity already existing for the manufacture of equipment required by these industries was sufficient to meet the immediate requirements and, therefore, the setting up of this project could be deferred.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Indo-UAR-Yugoslavia Joint Ventures

7460. **SHRI R. BARUA :**
SHRI M. S. OBEROI :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of the Indo-UAR-Yugoslavia tripartite agreement on the setting up of joint ventures was reviewed recently with the representatives of the two countries ;

(b) whether the said tripartite agreement has become operative ;

(c) whether India has given her preferences for certain joint projects to be set up under the agreement ; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main features are (i) exploration of phosphatic deposits in UAR ; (ii) preparation of a detailed Project Report for the setting up of a unit for the production of Phosphatic fertilisers from Rock

Phosphate ; and (iii) supply of technical know-how and a major portion of the plant and equipment required for Phosphatic fertiliser plant.

Recession in Textile Industry

7461. **SHRI R. BARUA :**
SHRI M. S. OBEROI :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tamilnad Millowners Association, Madurai has recently submitted a Memorandum to Government suggesting certain steps to fight recession in the textile industry ;

(b) if so, what are their main suggestions and whether Government have examined their feasibility ; and

(c) Government's assesment of the impact of current recession in the textile industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Tamilnad Mill-owners' Association, Madurai, has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister, Madras, a copy of which has been endorsed to the Central Government.

The following suggestions have been made in the memorandum :

(i) The Sales Tax on cotton yarn should be suspended for 5 years ;

(ii) Surcharge and consumption tax on electricity should be withdrawn ;

(iii) Adequate financial assistance should be provided to sick units through State financial agencies and commercial banks ;

(iv) The State Government should make a recommendation to the Central Government to abolish excise duty on yarn and coarse and medium cloth ; and

(v) It should be impressed upon the Trade Unions that there is need for reducing the D.A. of workers by 50%, at least in the case of sick and marginal units for 5 years or till they turn the corner, whichever is earlier.

The above suggestion mostly concern the State Government and are under their consideration. In so far as the Central