

June and had appraised him of the difficulties arising out of the new import policy for the year 1968-69;

(b) whether any assurance was given to the deputation that the import licences in respect of precious and semi-precious stones which had been reduced would be restored; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The deputation was assured that the matter would be reconsidered.

(c) The Government is examining the question.

Cut in the production of Jute products

547. **SHRI M. SUDARSANAM:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the member-mills of the Indian Jute Mills Association have resorted to a voluntary cut in production; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and its effects on the jute market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Some mills have probably curtailed production in June 1968 in accordance with raw jute stocks available with them. The total production of the mills which are members of the Association was 92,000 tonnes in June 1968 as compared to 99,500 tonnes in May 1968. The mills worked 200 hours in June 1968 compared to 216 hours in May 1968. There has been no adverse effect so far and the position is under constant watch.

Foreign Collaboration

548. **SHRI K. N. PANDEY:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELO-

PMENT and COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision regarding their policy statement on foreign collaboration; and

(b) if not, when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). No change in foreign collaboration policy is contemplated but Government have decided to constitute a Foreign Investment Board and to streamline the procedure for processing applications for foreign collaboration investments.

Enquiry Commission on Birla Industries

549. **SHRI JUGAL MONDAL:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision to appoint a Commission of inquiry on the Birla Group of Industries as promised by the Minister in the last session; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The nature of the appropriate machinery is still under consideration of Government.

Distribution of raw materials

550. **SHRI JUGAL MONDAL:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided that distribution of raw materials to small industries in future would be entrusted to the State Governments instead of Central Agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?