

(d) Following steps have been taken to promote sales of Gems and Jewellery to foreign tourists :

- (1) Replenishment scheme of sales to Foreign Tourists of gem and jewellery items has been introduced with effect from 1-4-1968. The scheme provides for import of non-indigenous materials used in the manufacture of products exported.
- (2) Replenishment in (1) above has been extended to all sales of jewellery to foreign tourists against all foreign currency bank transactions, e.g. foreign currency travellers cheques, crossed foreign bank drafts and personal cheques drawn on foreign banks instead of only against travellers cheques.
- (c) Apart from (1) and (2) above, facilities for sending abroad of sales/study teams and delegations, participation in exhibitions in foreign countries etc., are provided through the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

Industries in the Diamond Harbour and Sadar Sub-Divisions, West Bengal

3075. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of large-scale, medium-scale, small-scale and cottage industries in Diamond Harbour and Sadar sub-divisions under the district of 24 Parganas, West Bengal ;
- (b) the number of persons employed in each industry ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a large number of small-scale and cottage industries in this region are in the midst of a serious crisis ;
- (d) if so, the nature of that crisis ; and
- (e) what assistance, if any, has been given by Government to the small-scale and cottage industries in the Diamond Harbour and Sadar sub-divisions ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The information is furnished in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2481/68.*]

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The State Directorate of Cottage and Small Scale Industries is offering assistance under its normal scheme of activities through its different agencies to the units concerned.

Shuttle Train Service from Majerhat to Diamond Harbour and Falta Station

3076. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that (i) South 24 Parganas (West Bengal) is a highly congested area ; (ii) that number of passengers travelling from Majerhat (South Suburb) to Diamond Harbour and Falta is growing day by day and (iii) that only means of transport on this long route is the limited number of private buses which are not in a position to cope with the volume of traffic ; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider the desirability of introducing a shuttle train service from Majerhat railway station to Diamond Harbour and Falta ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Falta is not served by any railway station. No increase in traffic is, however, noticed in the number of through passengers from Majerhat to Diamond Harbour and vice versa.

(iii) Private Bus service is not the only mode of transport for journey from Majerhat to Diamond Harbour. Regular train services are also available between these points with a change at Ballygunge/Baruipur.

(b) No, there is no traffic justification for provision of through services on this section at present.