

(b) Yes, Sir. A contract for export of 3,500 tonnes of 8-5/8" outer diameter pipes valued at Rs. 3.7 million to Kuwait has been concluded recently. Efforts to promote exports to other countries including Australia, Middle-Eastern Countries etc., are also being made.

Handloom Industry

**429. Shri Utiya:
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports about the crisis in the handloom industry as a result of rising prices of yarn and the falling demand for handloom products;

(b) if so, the changes in the prices of yarn in the last three years;

(c) whether there has been a sharp rise after devaluation; and

(d) the steps taken to help the handloom industry to overcome the crisis?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7210/66].

(d) (i) A close watch is being kept on the prices of yarn. An *ad hoc* Committee consisting of representatives of Textile Mills, Handloom and Powerloom organisations has also been set up. This Committee will ensure that the necessary restraint is enforced by the Industry in keeping down the prices at reasonable limits as may be justified by production costs.

(ii) As a special measure to clear the existing accumulation of handloom stocks, State Governments have been allowed to grant a special additional rebate of five paise in the rupee on all genuine retail sales of handloom cloth for a period of one month at their discretion in addition to the fifteen days special additional rebate usually allowed every year.

1859 (Ai) LSD—3.

Industrial Estates

430. Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the allocations made to various States for the establishment of Industrial Estates; and

(b) the salient features of the Cooperative Industrial Estates?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7211/66].

Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant

**432. Shri Lakhan Das:
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been delay in the construction/erection/commissioning of the Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant;

(b) whether delay in the execution of a contract/contracts by a contractor/contractors has been responsible for this time lag;

(c) whether the said contractor/contractors were awarded the contract/contracts on the recommendation/intervention of the Minister;

(d) whether this was done over the objection of the Chairman/Manager/Directors of the company despite the fact that the said contractor/contractors had no experience of such construction/erection work nor was his/their quotation the lowest of those submitted;

(e) if so, whether any inquiry has been ordered into this;

(f) the results of this inquiry; and

(g) if the answer to part (e) above is in the negative the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Iron and Steel (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) to (g). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table.

Increase in Prices of Woollens

**433. Shri Lakhan Das:
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Commissioner of Delhi of the Delhi Administration received complaints from M/s. R. S. Madho Ram & Sons' Employees about the wrongful increase in the prices of woollens from the old stock effected after devaluation;

(b) whether the firm can sell these goods at a rate very much higher than that mentioned in the Rate List for that stock;

(c) if not, the action taken by Government against the firm;

(d) whether prices of the old stock were further enhanced during and after these investigations; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) The Madho Ram and Sons Employees' Union had sent a representation to the Delhi Administration regarding increase in prices of woollen goods effected by the firm.

(b) to (e). The matter has been looked into and it has been found that no undue increase in prices has been effected by the firm on old stocks. There is no control on the prices of woollen textiles.

Prices of Woollen Goods

**434. Shri Lakhan Das:
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dhariwal and Lal Imli Mills have increased the prices

of their goods from twenty to thirty per cent;

(b) whether this increase merely reflects the rise in prices of imported wool;

(c) if not, whether this increase is permissible under Law or under Government's policy declaration about holding the price line; and

(d) if not, the action taken against the mills?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) to (d). There is at present no control on the prices of woollen cloth. It is understood that Dhariwal and Lal Imli Mills have increased the prices of some of their products. The increase in prices of imported wool consequent on devaluation, is also a factor contributing to such price increase.

Scarcity of Raw Coffee in Madras

436. Shri Sezhiyan: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the scarcity conditions of raw coffee in Madras for the past three months;

(b) the reasons for the short supply of raw coffee this year in Madras city and the State; and

(c) the steps taken to ease the situation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi): (a) and (b). There is actually no shortage of coffee. All the varieties of coffee are easily available in the market. There may, however, be some short supply in respect of Plantation PB Coffee, which is particularly in great demand in Madras, due to short crop this year and adverse seasonal conditions. The coffee released for sale through Depots run by Propaganda Department of the Coffee Board is comparatively cheaper. Hence, there is a great rush for coffee at these Depots. It is perhaps this rush that