

AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been having a continued adverse balance of trade with Burma for the last seven years :

(b) whether India has lost traditional market for textiles in that country to Pakistan and China ; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to correct the adverse balance of trade with Burma ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir ; till 1967-68 ; but the adverse balance was considerably reduced during 1967-68, and during 1968-69 (April-December 1968), for which the countrywise statistics are available, our exports to Burma were of the order of Rs. 864 lakhs as against imports of Rs. 806 lakhs, thus leaving a balance-of-trade to the extent of Rs. 58 lakhs in favour of India.

(b) It is presumed that the reference of the Hon'ble Member is to cotton textiles. Although there has been a very severe competition from Pakistan and China to our cotton textiles in the Burmese market, it is not true that India has lost that market for our products. India's total exports of cotton textiles-including yarn, have increased from Rs. 16.6 lakhs during 1967 to Rs. 310.8 lakhs during 1968. India has also secured tenders for cotton textiles for the year 1969 to the extent of Rs. 446 lakhs despite competition from other sources including Pakistan and China.

(c) Our balance-of-trade with Burma during the last few years has been adverse mainly on account of heavy imports of Burmese rice due to severe scarcity conditions in India. Foreign trade of Burma has been completely nationalised, and imports are generally affected through global tenders. All possible efforts are being made to maximise our exports by securing maximum volume of import tenders issued by Burma.

Borooh Committee on Tea Industry

5844. SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FOREIGN

TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Borooh Committee which went into the problems of the Tea Industry in India has been published ;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay in publication ; and

(c) the main recommendations of the Committee and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The report is under examination. The report of the Committee and Government's decisions on its recommendations will be released as soon as possible.

Desalination of Sea Water

5845. SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA ; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the progress so far made by the Atomic Energy Commission in its programmes for use of desalted Sea water ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : Preliminary studies on the practicability of an Agro-Industrial Complex comprising a nuclear power station, a desalination plant, a fertiliser plant and an aluminium plant in the Kutch-Saurashtra region indicate the possibility of making use of desalinated sea water profitably for agriculture, provided certain crop-rotations and proper water and farm-management practices are followed. It is therefore planned to set up an experimental farm in an arid region, combined with a small fossil-fuelled desalination plant to supply water to the farm, in order to investigate in a practical manner the economics of the use of desalinated sea-water for agricultural purposes.

Export of Iron Ore from Minor Ports of Orissa

5846. SHRI S. KUNDU ; Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND