

year 1968-69 is estimated to be of the order of 22,000 tonnes. It has been decided to allow the import of 19,000 tonnes of natural rubber and 3,000 tonnes of special purpose synthetic rubber during 1968-69. The cost of the imported rubber is of the order of Rs. 8 crores (Rs. 6.5 crores of import of natural rubber and Rs. 1.5 crores for the import of special purpose synthetic rubber). Bulk of imports of natural rubber is from Malaysia, Singapore, Ceylon and U.S.A. synthetic rubber from U.S.A., U.K., West Germany and Canada.

Statelife Communication Earth Station at Ahmedabad

2655. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of erecting the Experimental Statelife Communication Earth Station at Ahmedabad and the amount of foreign exchange required;

(b) the reasons why the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of America (NASA) did not make available a Statelife;

(c) how many experiments have been carried out at this station so far and the nature and cost of the experiments; and

(d) how long the space station is likely to remain grounded and the consequent loss to Government on this account ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) The cost of setting up the Station was Rs. 108.47 lakhs including a foreign exchange component of Rs. 48.78 lakhs. Out of the foreign exchange cost, Rs. 30.36 lakhs was contributed by the UN Special Fund towards the cost of the main equipment for the station.

(b) and (c). The Station had planned to carry out certain experiments with one of the statelites in the ATS series launched by the NASA. Even though the statelife was launched as programmed, the Station was unable to carry out the planned experiments owing to the satellite not functioning as expected. However, the Station carried out 5 experiments with other statelites launched by NASA. No special cost has been incurred for the experiments.

(d) The main tasks of the Station are

to provide training, research and development facilities in the satellite communications technology. These are being implemented fully. As the Station is not for commercial operation, the question of any loss to Government does not arise.

महाराष्ट्र में सूती कपड़े की मिलें

2665. श्री देवराव पाटिल : क्या व्यापार तथा पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से महाराष्ट्र के सूती कपड़े के मिलों को अपने हाथ में लेने तथा उनका प्रबन्ध संभालने की अनुमति मांगी है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने मामले पर विचार किया है और यदि हां तो उस पर क्या निर्णय लिया गया ?

बंदेशिक व्यापार तथा पूर्ति मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री चौधरी राम सेवक) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Foreign Exchange for Importing Race Horses

2657. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange in rupees allotted for importing race horses during the period from 1956-57 to 1967-68, year-wise ; and

(b) the total number of race horses imported during the above period, year-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) No specific allocation of foreign exchange was made for the import of race horses during the period 1956-57 to 1967-68.

(b) Statement showing the number and value of all types of horses imported during 1956-57 to 1967-68 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—306/69].