

SCHEME FOR GRANT OF LOANS TO RELEASED EMERGENCY SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

8737. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director-General of Resettlement Ministry of Defence has chalked out a scheme to grant some loans to the released Emergency Commissioned and Short Service Commissioned Officers to assist them in pursuing higher education or professional and management training; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad features of the scheme are as under :—

- (i) A maximum loan of Rs. 2,000/- per officers is admissible.
- (ii) The loan is given for the purpose of higher education i.e. degree and above and for professional and management training in approved Institutes.
- (iii) The loan is recoverable in a maximum of 60 instalments commencing not later than six months after securing a job or 12 months after completion of course, whichever is earlier.
- (iv) The loan is granted interest free, but in case of default in payment of instalments, 6% interests is chargeable for the period of delay in payment of due instalment.

OPENING OF OFFICE BY AN INDIAN FIRM IN WEST GERMANY

8738. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indian firm has established a subsidiary office in West Germany and has assigned preparation of detailed engineering project of a steel plant in Latin America; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). It has been reported that the German subsidiary of an Indian firm of consultants have secured an assignment for preparing a project report in respect of a steel plant in Latin America. The Engineering Export Promotion Council is being requested to try to secure details.

SOVIET REFUSAL TO PEACE MOVE IN LAOS

8739. SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union has turned down the appeal by the neutralist Premier of Laos to join International consultations to restore peace in Laos; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The Soviet Union have indicated that in their view the time is not appropriate for international consultations on the Laotian problem.

(b) The Government of India have declared their support to the French proposal for consultations between the concerned parties in Indo-China and outside for the purpose of achieving an overall negotiated settlement in Indo-China. The Government have also welcomed the efforts being made by the Laotian parties to reach a peaceful settlement.

EXTENSION OF KAMALA EMBANKMENT UP TO SISAPANI

8740. SHRI BHOGENDRA JAH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5668 on the 8th April, 1970 regarding extension of Kamala Embankment upto Sisapani and state :

(a) whether the detailed scheme in consultation with the Government of Nepal has since been prepared;

(b) whether the Government of Nepal has been approached with regard to finalisation of the detailed scheme; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, after receiving modified alignment from the Bihar Government in August, 1969, the Central Water and Power Commission has communicated its approval to the Bihar Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken or being taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHVAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(a) and (d). The Bihar Government had been requested to prepare a detailed scheme in consultation with the engineers of the Nepal Government. The report is yet awaited from the State Government who have been requested to expedite.

EXPORT OF TEXTILES TO U. S. A.

8741. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of U. S. A. have initiated talks with different Asian countries for securing voluntary agreements limiting textile imports into the U. S. A. ;

(b) if so, how far textile imports into U. S. A. are proposed to be restricted; and

(c) how far the proposals are likely to affect India's textile export to U. S. A. ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) Government of India are not aware of this.

(b) Does not arise

(c) India, the U.S.A. and the other major importing and exporting countries are members of the Geneva Long Term Agreement on cotton textiles. Bilateral agreements have been negotiated between India and the USA, within the framework of this agreement. The Geneva Agreement

is at present in force only upto the end of September, 1970. Negotiations will take place before this date between the member countries (not only between USA and Asian countries) about the renewal of this agreement for a further period. There are no proposals by the U.S. which will have the effect of further restricting imports from India.

DISTRIBUTION OF COTTON

8742. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the *Economic Times* of the 10th April, 1970 revealing that clandestine deals in foreign cotton have made a mockery of the distribution system based on spindles wherein supply of Egyptian or Sudanese cotton is actually made against invoices in the name of Indian Cotton;

(b) if so, whether this has put the honest consumer of global cotton in a serious difficulty; and

(c) the reaction of Government's by way of preventing such clandestine deals and the number of cases brought to picture in this regard during this year so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (i) to (c). In terms of foreign cotton distribution scheme, each cotton mill is given an opportunity to receive an allocation of global cotton, linked with PL-480 cotton, in relation to its spindle working. Imported global cotton is not allowed to be sold. A report has appeared in the *Economic Times* of 10th April, 1970 to the effect that some mills have effected sale of global cotton violation of the condition of import licence and this being enquired into by the authorities.

TAKING AWAY OF NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY FROM INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

8743. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state