

(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 SIDDHESHWAR 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