

of Rosewood is allowed within an annual ceiling on an all India basis. The ceiling for the current financial year was exhausted in December, 1969 and further release has been made as a special case in order to avoid any dislocation in the exports during the quarter January-March, 1970. However, no quantity of 'Figured Laurel Wood' has been released for export, as this is in acute short supply in the country and the existing position is likely to continue for sometime.

Delay in import of Mercury

574. SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :
SHRI P. RAMAMURTHI :
SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss suffered on the import of mercury in 1966-67 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that when mercury was needed to meet urgent requirements in the country, its import was delayed as the funds could not be released in time ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) The State Trading Corporation suffered a loss of Rs. 28.73 lakhs on import of mercury in 1966-67 ;

(b) and (c). In view of acute shortage of foreign exchange it was decided to generate foreign exchange for import of mercury from exports made under barter deals and it took the Corporation some time before it could effect import of mercury.

Wig trade and Its exports

575. SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :
SHRI B. K. MODAK :
SHRIMATI SUSEELA
GOPALAN :
SHRI SATYA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the wig trade and its export performance was nowhere near the estimates ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the

distribution agents in USA and Canada went into liquidation ; and

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that the proper assessment of the firm, financial standing and capacity to handle the business was not made before the agreement was signed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). The export trade in wigs fell short of the expectations of the State Trading Corporation as the firm which had been appointed as sole selling agents in the U. S. A. and Canada by the Corporation went into liquidation.

(d) No, Sir.

Rise in prices of Cotton

576. SHRI UMANATH :
SHRI K. RAMANI :
SHRI P. RAMAMURTHI :
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficult situation facing the cloth and yarn mills due to the rise in the prices of cotton ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to have the mills from the closures ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action has been taken on the following lines to increase supply of cotton or its substitute (Staple Fibre) and to regulate the marketing and distribution of available supplies of cotton :

- (i) Arrangements for import of 1.25 lakhs bales of PL-480 cotton have been made.
- (ii) Arrangements for additional quantities of U. A. R. cotton have been negotiated and are likely to be finalised shortly.
- (iii) Arrangement have been made for the import of 1 lakh bales of staple fibre.
- (iv) Limits upto which cotton stocks can be held by mills have been reduced by 1 month.