

GATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the mode of selection of workers in the Siul Project (Himachal Pradesh);
- (b) whether there is any recruitment Board therefor;
- (c) if so, whether any representation has been given to Himachal Pradesh on it;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what percentage of local population or persons from Himachal Pradesh have been recruited for this project so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) The workcharged staff of the Siul Project in Himachal Pradesh are selected after interview of candidates sponsored by the local Employment Exchange.

(b) to (d). Selection is made by a Board which includes Project officers from Himachal Pradesh.

(e) All recruitment of workcharged staff has been made from the local population. In respect of regular establishment, 83% of the staff have been taken from the Himachal Pradesh Government.

Collaboration with Belgium in Export Oriented Industries

4922. **SHRI SITARAM KESRI** : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India has sought collaboration with Belgium in the export-oriented industries; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Possibilities of Belgium collaboration in export oriented ventures were explored generally by the Belgium

Economic Mission which visited India No recently. specific proposal from Belgium has been received by the Government so far.

Meeting of Indian Cotton Mills Federation Re. Price of Cotton

4923. **SHRI SITARAM KESRI** : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a meeting of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation was held in the month of November to evolve steps to bring down the price of cotton;
- (b) if so, the decisions taken thereat; and
- (c) the steps taken to implement the same ?

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

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Attention is invited in this respect to the statement laid by Minister for Foreign Trade on 8th December, 1970.

Statement

The following conclusions were reached unanimously :

If Government cannot immediately arrange for a definite import programme of a additional five lakh bales of cotton/staple fibre the Government, industry and the labour should without any loss of time, plan out a programme of block closure of the requisite period to conserve the supplies of cotton. Initially this should be for a period of 15 days.

In the meanwhile, starting from 14th December, the industry should immediately reduce voluntarily its consumption of cotton and all fibres by 15% by whatever method each mill may decide. Approach should also