

that the Burhanpur Tapti Mill is being closed down by the management ;

(b) whether Government have taken any action to prevent its closure ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHODHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). The mill has closed down recently. It has already been investigated under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. The report of the Investigation Committee is under examination.

Promotion of Ex French officials of Pondicherry

4960. SHRI N. SETHURAMAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ex-French officials, with requisite qualifications and experience of Pondicherry, have been denied promotion to higher posts, while officials, recruited after defecto transfer including the staff of ex-Indian Consulate General in Pondicherry, have been promoted to higher posts, even though some of them do not possess the requisite qualifications ; and

(b) if so, what action is contemplated by Government to remedy such anomalies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Pondicherry Government have intimated that no officials with requisite qualifications and experience have been denied promotion to higher posts solely due to the reason that they belong to the ex-French category. All promotions of officials whether they belonged to the ex-French category or to the ex-Indian Consulate General, or staff recruited after de facto merger, have been made only as per recommendations of the D. P. C./U. P. S. C.

(b) In view of (a), the question of remedying anomalies does not arise.

Pension fund contribution of Pondicherry ex-French Officials

* 4961. SHRI N. SETHURAMAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the contribution made by the Ex-French staff to the Local Pension Fund at the rate of 8 per cent of their pay has been taken over by the Government of Pondicherry instead of transferring the same of the Provident Fund, when they have opted for post-merger scales ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL AND RESEARCH (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Yes, Sir. Under the French Rules pensionary contributions were a pre-requisite for the grant of pension to the staff which were neither refundable to them nor transferable.

Progress of Kolegaon Project on river Sina

4962. SHRI SONAVANE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the Kolegaon Project on the river Sina in Karmala Taluka of Sholapur District in Maharashtra State ; and

(b) what action Government are taking to provide irrigation to the scarcity district of Sholapur (Maharashtra) ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). The information is being obtained from the Government of Maharashtra.

Establishment of Raw Material Bank

4964. SHRI MANGALATHUMADAM : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Untarred Question No. 2964 on the 2nd December, 1970 regarding the Raw Material Bank and state :

(a) the specific steps under way or under