

[Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra]

to stabilise cotton prices and the price of clothes? Lastly, the Government should take a positive decision in this matter so that the weavers who comprise one of the important sectors of the minority community and backward community in our country may have a place in our society and economy.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I have already said that for evolving a rational policy we need more information and that the first step had been taken and money has been set apart for a very exhaustive loom census so that the magnitude of the problem is known, in the light of which you can take appropriate measures. My hon. friend wants to know the measures we have already taken. I have submitted that the Sivaraman Committee has been set up with wide terms of reference and it is going into all aspects of the handloom industry. I mentioned that the main problems here are ancillary to the shortage and therefore more spinning mills should come into being. We are encouraging and helping the State Governments to set up more and more spinning mills and as I have said priority consideration is being given to the public sector undertakings failing which the co-operative sector, and it is for the State Government to take the initiative. We are here to help them.

Production situation has slightly improved and therefore the question of hardship is not there. Between July and November 1972, yarn production was 414.5 million kg. and for the same period for this year, production went up to 429.4 million kg. There is substantial improvement in the production situation and that has eased the burden of the weaver considerably. Cotton price rise is engaging our attention. There are two types of problems. If the growers get a fair price we should not mind it but undue rise is to be checked and we are looking into the matter.

12.33 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### PROTOCOL, TRADE & PAYMENTS AGREEMENT AND EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN INDIA AND BULGARIA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following documents signed on the 6th March, 1974 :—

- (1) Protocol on Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation signed by Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister of Industrial Development and Science and Technology and Eng. Toncho Chakarov, Minister of Machine Building and Metallurgy of Bulgaria. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6342/74*]
- (2) Trade and Payments Agreement signed by Minister of Commerce, Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya and Mr Ivan Nedev, Foreign Trade Minister of Bulgaria. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6343/74*]
- (3) Exchange of Letters for the mutual abolition of visas signed by Shri V. C. Trivedi, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Nenko Chendov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-6344/74*].

##### REVIEW & ANNUAL REPORT OF HINDUSTAN ZINC LTD., UDAIPUR FOR 1972-73

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur for the year 1972-73.