

ment of West Bengal on 26th February, 1985, trade union representatives, *inter-alia*, demanded that all closed and locked out jute mills should be reopened failing which Government of India should take them over immediately. In this connection, it may be mentioned that closure/Lockout comes under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act and the State Government is the appropriate authority for matters dealing with industrial disputes. It is, therefore, for the State Government of West Bengal to take appropriate action in the matter.

Take-over of an industry is the last resort of reactivating sick units. Government's role is primarily to monitor and coordinate measures aimed at revival of the sick units, coupled with assistance from banking and financial institutions who are primarily responsible to take remedial measures, inclusive of financial and managerial restructuring of the units in order to rejuvenate the industry.

Second Steel Plant In Orissa

*257. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether second steel plant in Orissa is being established during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign collaboration in this regard is under negotiation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b). Government's decision to set up steel plant at Daitari region in Orissa remains unaltered. The likely schedule of setting up of the plant will depend upon the investment decision which has yet to be taken.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Drop in Central Government Deposits

*258 SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a drop in the Central Government Deposits during the last two months, January and February, 1985;

(b) if so, the details there of; and

(c) the reasons for such heavy transfers of resources from the Central pool to banking system ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (c). The arrangement with Reserve Bank is that whenever cash balance of Central Government is very high it should be brought down by premature cancellation of Treasury Bills held by Reserve Bank. Through this arrangement the idle surplus cash balance which does not earn any interest is utilised to reduce Government's interest bearing liability to RBI. This does not represent transfer of Centre's resources to banking system. The cancellation of Treasury Bills is covered by Appropriation sanctioned by Parliament.

Setting up of Divisional Offices of L.I.C. in Jammu and Kashmir

*259. PROF SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India has set up Divisional Offices in all the big cities in India;

(b) whether he is aware that Divisional Offices of Life Insurance Corporation of India have been set up at the capitals of all the States except Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, whether Divisional Offices will be set up in near future at Srinagar and Jammu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) No, Sir. The LIC has Divisional Offices only in 43 cities.

(b) The LIC has no Divisional Offices in 9 State Capitals.

(c) The question of opening Divisional Offices in Srinagar and Jammu is to be decided by LIC on merits.

Import of Sight-Saving Equipments under Life-Saving Category

*260. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :
SHRI R.P. DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology has approached Government to make the import of sight-saving equipments duty free;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the said proposal; and

(c) if no such concession is proposed to be given, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The request of the Council is under examination.

Export of Diamonds

*261. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has any plans to stock rough diamonds to help diamond export efforts;

(b) if so, whether cut diamond export is being stepped up;

(c) whether international monopoly houses are controlling diamond trade ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to

protect Indian diamond exports from these houses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) The Hindustan Diamond Company Limited and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited procure rough diamonds for stock and sale to eligible diamond traders for export production and cut and polished diamonds.

(b) Export of cut and polished diamonds is constantly encouraged.

(c) The Diamond Trading Company is reported to control substantial part of mining and marketing of rough diamonds. There is no such trading company for cut and polished diamonds.

(d) There being no trading company controlling substantial part of trade in cut and polished diamonds, exports from India are generally arranged by Indian merchants directly.

Tea at Reasonable prices

* 262. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken steps to make tea available at reasonable prices;

(b) whether for this, the proportion of tea to be set apart for auction has been reduced; and

(c) whether packaged tea at prices fixed by Government is being made available throughout the country for use by common man ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (c). The Government have announced the Tea Marketing Plan for 1985 with the objectives of maximising export earnings and at the same time ensuring adequate supply of tea at reasonable prices for the domestic market.