

allotted to the various agencies and their performance is given below :

Name of the exporting agency	Qty. allotted (in lakh bales)	Export contracts registered with Tex. Commissioner upto Aug, 85 (in bales)
1	2	3
1. Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.	1,50,000	85,085
2. Maharashtra State Co. op. Cotton Growers Marketing Federation	95,000	65,930
3. Gujarat State Co. operative Cotton Federation	40,000	30,000
4. Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation	10,000	5,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,95,00</b>	<b>1,86,055</b>

A quantity of 75,000 bales of medium staple cotton had been imported to meet the shortage in this variety estimated at that time. The price paid for the imported cotton was 41.90 US Cents per pound F.O.B., equivalent to about Rs. 3,885 per candy F.O.B.

[English]

#### Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference

\*96. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether to Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference was held at Male on 1st and 2nd October, 1985 to discuss the question of protectionism by rich countries and improvement in market access to developing countries; and

(b) if so, the outcome of this Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference, *Inter alia* expressed concern at the intonsification of proectionist pressures and called for rapid and substantial progress on outstanding issues in GATT concerning safeguards, non-tariff barriers, agriculture and textiles which could assist in rolling back protectionism. The Conference also called for additional concessional flows, increased flexibility in debt servicing arrangements and freer market access to exports from developing countries.

#### Visit of Economic Mission to Japan

\*97. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :

SHRI T. BALA GOUD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased fo state :

(a) whether a 25-Member Economic Mission headed by Shri L.K. Jha visited Japan recently to explore the possibility of improving Indo-Japanese economic relationship; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the visit ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A 22 member Indian Economic Mission led by Shri L.K. Jha visited Japan from 11th to 18th September, 1985. The Mission was deputed as a return Mission to an economic delegation of Japanese industrialists which had visited India in November-December, 1984 and as part of a continuous exchange of ideas for increased economic co-operation between the two countries. It was warmly received by leaders of Japanese Government and industry. The Mission successfully explained our policy regarding foreign investment in areas confirming to our plan priorities. It was exploratory in nature.

#### Steps taken to Increase Export of Iron Ore through Paradip Port

\*98. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp

decline in the export of iron ore through Paradip Port during the last three years as compared to the previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of iron ore through Paradip Port; and

(d) the recent directives given by Government to the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation for this purpose?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) :** (a) and (b). Export of iron ore through this port declined during 1982-83 and 1983-84 as compared to 1981-82. However, in 1984-85 these exports again picked-up and reached a level of 16.07 lakh tonnes as against 16.38 tonnes in 1981-82. This decline was due to recessionary conditions in the world steel industry and reluctance of foreign buyers to nominate vessels to Paradip port because the capacity of the Port is inadequate for receiving large sized vessels.

(c) Following steps have been taken to increase the export of iron ore through that port. (i) Foreign buyers have been provided incentive by way of discounts to compensate for high freight incidence due shipment by smaller sized vessels, and larger distance involved as compared to Madras and Vizag Ports. (ii) Quota restrictions for procurement of iron ore from mine owners have been removed by MMTC consequent upon higher off-take from the port. (iii) In order to meet long term requirements of the port, a proposal for improving iron ore facilities and deepening of the port is being examined.

(d) No directive has been given recently to MMTC for this purpose. However MMTC is involved in a proposal for deepening of port and improvement of handling facilities at Paradip.

#### **Modernisation of Textile Industry**

\*99. **SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :**

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**

Will the Minister of **TEXTILES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is

great demand to modernise the textile industry to save this industry and increase the production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) :** (a) and (b). There is considerable need to replace old and obsolete machinery and also to modernise the textile industry to the extent feasible. Individual units will have to approach the Financial Institutions for assistance. Other measures, as indicated in the policy, are under implementation.

#### **Ban on Import of Coconut Oil**

\*100. **SHRI T. BASHEER :** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of coconut oil was imported under the name of industrial oil during 1984;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue immediate order to ban import of such oil in future?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) :** (a) and (b). No, Sir.

The import of coconut oil, both edible and non-edible, is canalised through **STC/Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation**. During April, 1984, **STC** imported only about 9,000 M.T. of **R.B.D.** coconut oil. No imports have been made in 1985.

Import of coconut oil is allowed to a small extent against **Replenishment Licences** for export production of fatty acids. The quantities imported against **REP Licences** are not significant.

(c) No, Sir.

#### **Registration of Powerlooms in Urban and Remote Areas**

823. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADKAR PATIL :** Will the Minister of **TEXTILES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised