

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