

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the *per capita* availability of cotton cloth in line with rising population ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) The *per capita* availability of cotton cloth in India during 1970 was 13.60 metres.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

INDO-SOVIET AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT FOR ALUMINIUM PLANT

*169. **SHRI SARJOO PANDEY :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into an agreement with the U S S R for the supply of Soviet equipment for the proposed aluminium plant in Korba in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the salient feature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) The Bharat Aluminium Company (a Public Sector Undertaking) entered into a contract with M/s TSVELIMFTPROMEXPORT MOSCOW (U S S R) on 30-12-1971 for supply of equipment required for the smelter and fabrication units of the Korba (M P) Aluminium Project

(b) The salient features of the contract are given below

(i) The Soviet Agency will supply equipment required for aluminium smelter, sheet Rolling Mill Shop, Foundry, Profile and Tube Shop.

(ii) The total value of the equipment to be supplied by the Soviet Agency amount to Roubles 10 85 million equivalent to about Rs. 9.13 crores.

The Soviet Agency will Guarantee the technical indices and the quality and faultless operation of the equipment for 12 months from the date of putting the equipment into operation, but for not more than 24 months from the date of delivering the last part of any unit, machine and equip-

ment without which that equipment cannot be erected and operated.

(iv) If within the guarantee period, the equipment is proved to be defective because of supplier's fault, the Soviet Agency will at their own expense, rectify the defects within the shortest technically possible time or replace the defective equipment or parts thereof.

POWER SHORTAGE IN MAHARASHTRA

*170 **SHRI RAMKANWAR :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an acute power shortage in Bombay and various other parts of Maharashtra recently;

(b) whether as a result thereof industries and agriculture suffered immensely, and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Central Government to ensure normal powersupply to the affected areas ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K.L. RAO) : (a) and (b). Owing to inadequacy of reserve margin, the power supply position in Maharashtra particularly in Western Maharashtra has been quite critical in recent months although conditions of acute power shortage have mostly been avoided by careful marshalling of all the resources. The forced outages of any generating capacity, such as have occurred recently from time to time at Tarapur (2x200 MW), Nasik (2x140 MW), Trombay (1x62 5MW) and Koyna (540 MW) have resulted in power shortages, which have affected industry and agriculture. Acute shortages have been averted during these occurrences by drawing power from the adjoining States of Madhya Pradesh and Mysore to the extent possible and temporary overdrawal of energy from hydro electric resources.

Power shortage to the extent of about 50 to 70 MW (against a total demand of 1630 MW for the whole State) was being experienced in Maharashtra since early February 1972, as a result of which load shedding had to be resorted to in Bombay and the areas

served by the Tata Koyna System. The deficit rose to about 370 MW during the two days 8th and 9th March, 1972 when forced shut-down of the Koyna Power Station had to be availed of for attending to some repairs on the tail race works of Koyna Stage III project. The load shed on the 24th March, 1972 was from 125 MW to 148 MW.

Soje inconvenience was caused to industrial, agricultural and other consumers on account of curtailment of power supply for short periods by rotation to reduce the load on the System.

(c) Relief power to the extent possible has been arranged from Madhya Pradesh and Mysore States which helped to alleviate the position. Assistance from Central Water and Power Commission has been offered for quick recommissioning of the Nasik sets.

IRRIGATION POTENTIAL OF ORISSA STATE

*171. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the irrigation potential of the Orissa State at present;

(b) whether any schemes have been drawn up to augment the same; and

(c) if so, a brief outline thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) to (c) : The irrigation potential in Orissa at present is about 2.2 million hectares, this is expected to rise to 2.4 million hectares by the end of the Fourth Plan, when about 60% of the total potential would have been exploited.

The Anadapur Barrage and Joro-Harbhangi projects, proposed by the State Government, have been examined by the Central Water and Power Commission and can be taken up by the State Government if the necessary finances are in sight. The Potteru major irrigation project and 5 medium schemes proposed by the State Government are under examination. The State Government also are investigating a number of new irrigation schemes.

HANDLING OF TRADE WITH AFGHANISTAN BY S. T. C.

*172. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation will handle trade with Afghanistan;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed by both the countries in this regard; and

(c) if so, the salient features hereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The question of induction of Public Sector Agencies in Indo-Afghan trade was discussed in the talks with the Afghan trade delegation held in New Delhi in February, 1972. In deference to the wishes of the Afghan delegation, it was agreed to discuss the matter further before the end of June, 1972.

IMPROVMENT OF RAILWAYS IN SOUTH GUJARAT

*175. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Western Railway is proposing to spend Rs. 150 crores during the next five years for the improvement of Railways in South Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the nature of the proposed improvements ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Railway statistics including expenditure, are maintained railway-wise and not state-wise or region-wise. Also, it is not possible to give anticipated expenditure even railway wise for the next five years, as the Works Programmes for each year are finalised only a few months in advance. However, a statement showing the list of major railway works in progress and those included in 1972-73 Budget, falling wholly or partly in the Gujarat State, is laid on the table of the Sabha [Placed in Library See. No. LT-1561/72]