

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : How long will the Government take to bring this recommendation into effect ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There is no question of Government soft peddling this or any other recommendation of Administrative Reforms Commission. These recommendations about which the hon. Member has asked the question are very important recommendations and since they concern basically the State Governments any decision that the Government would take on these recommendations of the Commission would have to be done after proper consultation with the State Governments. We are constantly reminding the State Governments. Some have sent the reply and other have agreed to send the reply soon-

Taking over of Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mills

*973. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textiles Corporation had submitted a report about the working of the Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mills and had recommended the taking over of its management ;

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines thereof ; and

(c) the decision of the Centre in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The affairs of Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd. have been investigated under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, and it would not be in the public interest to disclose their contents.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : I would like to know from the Minister whether there was unanimous recommendation made by the National Textiles Corporation and by the investigating authorities that the mills should be taken over ? What will be the decision thereof ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : As I have said, the investigation committee has submitted its report. We are examining it. We have to

look into it as to what is the condition of the Mill there, what amount of investment has to be made, how far the State Government will share the financing part of it, etc. These are the points to be examined and decided. I can only assure the hon. Member that it will be my endeavour to see that this Mill starts working.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Does it mean that the Centre has informed the State to take the responsibility of sharing the financing of it and, if so, what is the reply that the Centre has received from the State Government and whether the Centre has decided to take it over ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We have not taken any decision yet. We are in correspondence with the State Government. We are examining the issue. I can only assure him that it will be my endeavour to see that this Mill starts working specially in view of the unemployment situation prevailing there.

श्री अचल सिंह : यह जो रिकमेन्डेशन की गई है कि मिल को ले लिया जाये, तो क्या उसको लेने के बाद उसमें फायदा हो सकेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसी का तो भगड़ा हो रहा है ।

Exploration of Foreign Markets for Indian Processed Food, Nuts and Spices

*974. **SHRI M. M. JOSEPH :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of processed food and spice manufacturers visited European and American cities to explore markets for Indian processed foods, nuts and spices ; and

(b) if so, the result achieved in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). The team is at present touring these countries and a report will be available on their return.

SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is having an idea of sending a team to explore the foreign markets for Indian rubber ?

SHRI A C. GEORGE : It does not arise out of this Question. All the same, regarding rubber, at present we were thinking of only utilising our existing machinery of commercial negotiations.

SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : The production of rubber is in excess of the demand.....

MR. SPEAKER : This is about food items. You ask your question about food items. Rubber is not a food item. You can ask another question if you like. No.

Establishment of Spinning Mill in Manipur

*976. **SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for establishment of a spinning mill in Manipur has been dropped ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) if not, the progress made therein and when it is likely to be established ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The proposal made in 1964 was dropped on the advice of a team of technical experts. On the request of the Government of Manipur, however the proposal has recently been taken up for reconsideration and a techno-economic examination is being made.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : May I know from the hon. Minister, in view of the fact that every household in Manipur is an active unit of the handloom industry and for the matter of that a heavy consumer of silk yarn and also there are vast fertile areas for cotton production, what is the basis of the expert advice as a result of which this proposal had to be dropped ? May I know the main features of such an advice ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : The proposal came to the Ministry of Foreign Trade some time in 1964 and, at that time, a team was sent to examine it. They advised us that it was not economical to set up a spinning mill there. We started another examination of it on the request of the Manipur Government. I can assure the hon. Member, although the setting up of a spinning mill is under banned items, I will try to make an exception in the case of Manipur. On receipt of a report from the Textile Commissioner, we will see that it is set up in Manipur.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the expert committee which examined this issue had examined it half-heartedly so that after the loss of 7 years there was the necessity of reconsidering it. There has been a consistent and persistent demand for it in Manipur.....

MR. SPEAKER : He has already accepted it.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : I am thankful. May I know from the hon. Minister when this second examination will be over and is it also likely to be dropped after examination so that it may be again revived after several years ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Perhaps the hon Member did not follow my answer, I said that I am expecting a report from the Textile Commissioner. I have also said that I will make an exception in the case of Manipur because of the local situation and it was perhaps agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER : Qn. 977—Mr. B. R. Shukla—absent.

Qn. 978.

Proposal to establish Free Trade Zone near Santa Cruz Air Port

*978. **SHRI HARI KISORE SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to establish a free trade zone called Air Port Electronic Project near Santa Cruz Air Port, Bombay; and