

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

(b) if so, the main features of the proposed project ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L.N. MISHRA) : (a) The TDA is planning to establish at Santa Cruz Airport Bombay, a bonded-processing facility for promoting export of electronic equipments and components.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(i) The Project is not a free trade zone. It is an extension of present manufacture-in-bond facilities provided by the Central Board of Customs and Excise. Selected assemblies and sub-assemblies of electronic equipment and components are proposed to be processed in the Facility for export.

(ii) The Facility will be sited on a land near the Santa Cruz Air-port measuring about 100 acres. The land is being acquired by the State owned Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Development Corporation.

(iii) The Facility will be self contained. Besides the processing and testing lines which would be put up by individual processing units, there will be common service facilities like tool rooms, electricity, water and pneumatic services, telecommunication facilities like telex and banking and customs documentation facilities.

(iv) Admission of entrepreneurs to the Facility will be decided by a high power Board of Management on the basis of technical and commercial feasibility of the 100 per cent export-oriented projects to be submitted by the entrepreneurs.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : I understand that there will be no customs duty on import of raw materials or equipment for the project as the entire output will be for export. May I know from the Government what steps the Government propose to take to ensure that raw materials meant for this project or the output of this project may not find their way into the black market inside the country ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : This is going to be a bonded area, mainly meant for export. Perhaps, there will be facility in the matter of customs. It is only for customs purposes and it is for the State Government to see that there is no leakage here.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : What are the reasons for establishing this project near Santa Cruz and will the Government consider establishing similar projects in regard to other industrial and agricultural goods in other parts of the country also ?

SHRI L. N. MISRA : We are going to make electrical components and electrical parts because they have got very good market. For the present, to begin with, Santa Cruz is our first effort and if we succeed there, we can think of other places.

All India Services Examinations

*979. **SHRI GANGA REDDY :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations have been received that married women be allowed to appear for the All India Services as I.A.S., I.P.S., I.F.S. (Forest), I.F.S. (Foreign);

(b) whether Government have considered the representations and taken decision; and

(c) if so, what ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) According to the rules governing recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Police Service and the Indian Forest Service, a married woman is not entitled as of right to be appointed to these Services. If a woman who is appointed to any of these services subsequently marries she can be called upon to resign, should the maintenance of efficiency so require. However, in practice, married women are not debarred from appearing in the competitive examinations on the basis of which direct recruitment to these services is made. Married women or widows with encumbrances are not recruited to the Indian Foreign Service. No representation has been received by Government in this regard.