

ment have requested Government to abolish the export duty on coir yarn ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government do not propose to abolish the export duty on coir yarn at present.

Reopening of Cashew Factories in Kerala

*665. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement was reached by Government and the cashew factory owners in Kerala in May, 1971 ;

(b) if so, the main points thereof ;

(c) whether all the factories reopened as a result thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in getting those factories reopened at the earliest ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (d). Discussions were held with some representatives of the cashew factories as a result of which most of the factories have been reopened.

Rupee Trade Agreement with Yugoslavia

*666. SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(e) whether negotiation is going on between India and Yugoslavia regarding the basis of trade payment ;

(b) whether Yugoslavia is unwilling to accept payment in rupee currency ; and

(c) if so, the basis of payment agreed to by the two countries in regard to their mutual trade transactions ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No agreement has yet been reached as the matter is presently under negotiations between the two Governments.

Taking over of Import and International Trade of Cotton

*671. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal to take over the import and internal trade of cotton ; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

With effect from 15-9-70, cotton import has been canalized through the Cotton Corporation of India Limited. From that date, import licences for cotton are being issued in the name of the Corporation with endorsement in the name of the user mills. Mills have been allowed freedom to choose their own agents for services hitherto rendered to them for importation of cotton. The Corporation will also render such services wherever asked to do so.

As regards the internal trade, the Corporation will undertake purchases by way of price support, provide ready market to cultivators who grow new varieties of extra long staple cotton and help the National Textile Corporation for the mills under Government management as well as mills in the private sector in procuring domestic cotton.

Trade with Middle East Countries

*672. SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any concerted drive is being made to increase our trade with the Middle East Countries ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ;

(c) whether Indian goods, e.g. engineering goods, machineries and textiles are in great demand in the Middle East countries and they need market for cotton and