

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** Sir, as mentioned in the statement, it is true that the Government has taken so many steps to avoid regional imbalances in the economic growth, but is it not a fact that in the last 20 years of our economic development in many parts of the country the regional imbalances have come to that stage that people are even demanding separate States. Under that condition I would like to know from the Government whether there will be a separate cell under the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Planning to deal with the problem on a national plane ?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA :** There is no doubt that the problem of backward areas is a national problem. But while formulating the plans it is for the State Governments to take care of the backward areas. At the same time the Central Government has taken enough care to see that the backward areas in various States get enough assistance and in that direction the plans are formulated. Beyond that it is not possible for the Central Government to take up schemes.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :** I have gone into the statement where so many schemes have been listed. It is also a fact that similar schemes were there before, but it has been proved in our country that the schemes formulated like that had not been that effective and were not properly implemented. So, in view of that fact may I know whether Government would re-consider its present position ?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA :** Government has already reconsidered, and I should like to bring to the notice of the House that at the time of the formulation of the Fourth Five Year Plan it is according to the advice given by our National Development Council that various schemes are formulated and through these schemes we are trying to give enough assistance through the Central sector. Beyond that it would not be possible until and unless States themselves take up this challenge and formulate the schemes so that these imbalances are removed.

**SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA :** May I know from the hon. Minister whether, keeping in view our past experience that the State Governments in certain cases have deliberately ignored specially the hilly areas

development, the Centre is considering any proposal for initiating directly some schemes for development of those hilly areas ?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA :** Recently about fifteen to sixteen Members of Parliament made a representation to the Prime Minister who is also Chairman of the Planning Commission, and there is a proposal now under consideration to set up a separate cell to consider the problems of hilly areas as they are having some special problems. Naturally, we shall try our level best to see that their problems are properly remedied.

**SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY :** From the statement it appears apart from the special efforts made by the State Governments the Government of India has contributed Rs. 45 crores to the State of Andhra as a special measure to remove regional disparity. May I know what is the rationale for it and why this facility has not been extended to other backward States which have been identified as such ?

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA :** I have placed on the Table of the House a detailed statement and it is only in the case of Telangana but it is for the whole of the country that we have taken up several measures and we have given crores of rupees. Having regard to the specific problem regarding backwardness of Telangana area it is true that an additional outlay of sum of Rs. 45 crores has been accepted by the Central Government. But I would like to say to this House that it is not only in the case of Telangana but it is for the whole of the country that several measures have been taken by the Government which are already narrated in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

**SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY :** May I know how much has been given to the State of Orissa ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** We have fixed a debate on this. Next question.

Reduction in Direct Shipment of Tea to London

\*1424. **SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian tea producers

have decided to reduce direct shipment to London because of the unremunerative price ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to export tea to other countries directly from India ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) :** (a) Government are not aware of any move by tea producers to reduce direct tea shipment to London.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR :** May I know what is the export position in comparison with the previous year ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE :** The export position of tea has definitely improved. In 1969 the export was down to 168 million Kg. whereas in 1970 the export was 208 million Kg. realising for us Rs. 148 crores in foreign exchange. Even in 1971, I am in a position to tell you that 8.26 million Kg. of tea has been exported to UK alone in the first five months in comparison to 5.12 million Kg. last during the same period.

#### Closure of Mahi Unit of Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mills

\*1425. **SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the closure of Mahi Unit of the Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mills ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the closure ;

(c) the total number of employees rendered jobless owing to the closure ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take over this Mill through the National Textile Corporation ?

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

(b) The mill closed down on account of financial difficulties.

(c) About 600.

(d) The affairs of the mill have already been investigated under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, and the matter is under examination.

**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :** May I know whether it is a fact that when the Minister visited Kerala the representatives of the union met him and gave him a memorandum and the Minister promised that he would try to have an inquiry into the matter and see that the Government takes over the mill ; if so, what has happened to that ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE :** It is true that the representatives of these two mills met me and represented the matter regarding the difficulties they are facing. Actually, investigation in regard to these two mills, the Cannanore Spinning Mill and the Mahi mill, is over. We have examined the report in consultation with the National Textile Corporation. Since these two units are functioning in two different areas, one in Pondicherry and the other in Kerala, we have informed the concerned State Governments that we are prepared to take over the mills provided the State Government is in a position to discharge their responsibility in connection with this.

**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :** May I know if the National Textile Corporation had been asking some States in India that they are prepared to take over the closed down mills ; if so, will the Ministry approach the National Textile Corporation and ask them whether they would be able to take over closed mills ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE :** Yes, Sir, In such circumstances it is the responsibility of the State Government to take 49 per cent interest as far as the financial affairs are concerned.

#### Takeover of Balmer Lawrie's Tea Warehouse, Calcutta

\*1426. **SHRI DINESH JOARDER :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since finalised their decision to take over Balmer Lawrie's Tea Warehouse, Hyde Road, Calcutta ; and