

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

(b) if so, when it is likely to be taken over ?

**THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) :** (a) and (b). The question of taking over the three tea Public Warehouses in Calcutta by a Central Agency is under consideration.

**SHRI DINESH JOARDER :** My Question was about take over of Balmer Lawrie's Tea Warehouses and the answer of the Hon'ble Minister is very sceptic. I want to know whether warehousing of tea industry is being controlled by the monopolists and capitalists Balmer Lawrie Co., exclusively. Sometimes the Balmer Lawrie concern sabotages the transshipment and transport system to earn further money from warehousing charges, etc. May I know whether all of Balmer Lawrie's Warehouses are going to be taken over by the Government ?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** This is a problem before us. These warehouses have been incurring a loss. The Balmer Lawrie people have washed off their hands. The lease is over and they are not interested in it. We want to continue it. We are having a discussion with the Ministry of Transport. As the hon. Member might be knowing, these three warehouses have been incurring a loss of Rs. 30-40 lakhs per annum. We have to give some arrangement to the Ministry of Transport. There is no doubt about it. The Government has to step in and the Government will have to take over.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

ग्वालियर के समीप काली सिंध योजना को अंतिम रूप दिया जाना

**SNQ 6. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** क्या सिबाई और बिद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ग्वालियर के समीप काली सिंध योजना को इस बीच अंतिम रूप दे दिया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मुख्य-मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ; और

(ग) इस योजना पर कितने समय तक कार्य आरम्भ हो जाने की संभावना है ।

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) :** (a) to (c). The Sindh River Project -Phase I, envisages the construction of a 45 feet high diversion weir across the Sindh river and a feeder canal 4 miles long to the existing Harsi reservoir and remodelling of the Harsi Canal system to provide additional irrigation to 58,000 acres annually at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.9 crores. The Sindh river diversion enables utilising 1.5 TMC of water to be released from Kaketo reservoir to Tigra reservoir for augmenting Gwalior water supply. Also, in the second phase of Sindh river project, the weir will be raised to store water for irrigating additional 3.5 lakhs acres.

The project proposals were sent by the State Government in January, 1971 and have been technically examined in the Central Water and Power Commission and the Commission's comments have been sent recently to the State Government. After receipt of clarifications, the project will be processed further for clearance.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** अध्यक्ष जी, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या यह सच है कि पहले यह सारी योजना एक ही थी और उसे हिस्सों में, फेजेज में बाटने का कोई सुझाव नहीं था तो क्या कारण है कि अब उसको फेज वन, फेज टू में बाटा जा रहा है और दूसरा फेज कम्प्लीट होने में कितना समय लगेगा ?

**DR K. L. RAO :** This project has been there for several years. In 1965, I went there to find out why the project has been delayed. I suggested that it should be taken up in two phases, one for diversion at the cost of Rs. 5 crores and the other for storage at the cost of Rs. 30 crores. The division has been done in order to get benefit out of the money spent. This has been done purely to get the project going along. The present project is for irrigation of 58,000 acres in addition to 75,000 acres which we have got already. This can very much be achieved in 2 or 3 years. When the project dam is further heightened, then it will irrigate additional 3.5 lakh acres.