

by the State Trading Corporation, have accumulated at Bombay Port and another 10,000 bales are likely to arrive shortly ;

(b) whether the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation had requested Government for cancellation of their order for 15,000 bales and that the fibre is not being lifted from the Port ; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) ICMF is holding the imported staple fibre in *bond* at Bombay Port. STC had imported the goods for ICMF. It is true that another consignment of 10,000 bales is likely to arrive shortly.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Law and Order situation in District Birbhum (West Bengal)

*1429. **SHRI HARI SINGH :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the worsening condition of law and order in District of Birbhum in West Bengal at the hands of extremists and Naxalites ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to curb their activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). Government are keeping a close watch on the law and order situation in Birbhum district. In view of the number of incidents of gun-snatching, murder and lawlessness which took place in Birbhum district, the State Administration obtained the assistance of the army to undertake intensive searches and to apprehend Naxalites and other anti-social elements in the district. All possible steps are being taken to curb violent activities.

Markets for Indian Goods in Latin American Countries

*1430. **SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a large potential market in the Latin American countries for Indian goods ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to develop these markets ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The total imports of the Latin American Region average about US\$10 billion (Rs 7,500 crores) per annum. Indian export trade with Latin American Countries has so far been of a limited nature and confined to such items as could not be obtained by them from nearby sources as jute goods and shellac.

The countries in this region are now in the process of renovating and expanding their railways, communications, irrigation facilities and electricity production thus indicating a good scope for various products of engineering industries. A few orders for cables, structurals and rails have been won. Various steps have been and are being taken to realise the export potentialities of Indian products, particularly non-traditional ones.

(i) As an export Promotion measure India participated in the International Pacific Trade Fair in Lima in 1967 and 1969 and in the trade Fair at Bagota in 1970. We are again participating in Pacific Trade Fair at Lima this year.

(ii) Two trade missions were set up in this region in 1969.

(iii) There was an exchange of trade delegations between India and Colombia in 1970 and a trade agreement was signed between the two countries.

(iv) Indian Missions in this region have been assisting Indian firms to bid against International Tenders floated in these countries and Indian firms are now actively participating in these tenders.

(v) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has been asked to make a survey of important countries in this region and identify the commodities likely to find a good