

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 Naxalities 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

market in Latin America and recommend specific steps required to be taken for promoting their exports.

Nationalisation of Rubber, Tea and Cardamom Plantations

*1431. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Government has made any proposal to nationalise plantations such as Rubber, Tea and Cardamom in the country ;

(b) whether any study was conducted by the Finance Ministry in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the particulars of aspects studied and decisions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal is receiving the attention of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Government Advertisements in Reader's Digest

*1432. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity and Public Sector Undertakings take large advertising space in the magazine Reader's Digest ;

(b) whether Reader's Digest's claim of circulation has not been certified by the Audit Bureau of Circulation ;

(c) whether some other Indian publications have been denied their advertising rates by the D.A.V.P. while having larger circulation than that of the Reader's Digest ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such discrimination ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) During 1970-71, the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) placed advertisements in the "Reader's Digest" to cover four pages. A few Public Sector Undertakings place their advertisements through the DAVP but the majority do not, as they are not required to do so. As the issue of advertisements is within the autonomous sphere of these Undertakings, Government have no information about such advertisement.

(b) According to information available with Government, the journal 'Reader's Digest' is not a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation which is a private organisation. The Bureau certifies the circulation only of those newspapers and journals which are its members. The circulation of the journal was checked by the Registrar of Newspapers in India in 1969-70.

(c) Newspapers and periodicals have full freedom to fix their own advertisement rates, but the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity makes use of only those newspapers and periodicals whose rates are found acceptable from the point of view of publicity requirements. In selecting a newspaper or periodical for Government advertisement, regard is paid, besides advertisement rates, to effective circulation, regularity in publication, class or readership, pulling power, standard of production, language and area to be covered within the available funds and adherence by the newspaper/periodical to accepted standards of journalistic ethics.

(d) No question of discrimination is involved.

Negotiation by Tatas for setting up Multi-million Dollar Factory in Singapore

*1433. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tatas have completed negotiations in Singapore to set up a multi-million dollar factory there to manufacture engineering appliances and equipment ; and

(b) its effect on India's export ?