

their equity capital not exceeding 74 per cent. The time limit for this purpose expires towards the end of this year in most cases and in the first half of next year in other cases.

(b) and (c) The Bank's directives are statutory in nature and the companies are submitting their proposals in this regard.

Demand for Nationalisation of Closed Jute Mills

*285. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take over the management of some of the closed jute mills in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the trade unions in this field have demanded full nationalisation of these mills instead of taking over only their management; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Management of two closed jute mills, namely, Khardah Co. Ltd and Union Jute Mills has been taken over by the Government on 16th May, 1977.

(c) and (d). No proposal to nationalise these mills is under consideration at present.

Performance of National Textile Corporation

*287. SHRI S. G. MURUGAIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the National Textile Corporation has been found to be unsatisfactory; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to improve the performance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Taking into account the problems inherited by the National Textile Corporation, namely, obsolescence of machinery, surplus labour etc., the Government does not consider the performance of the National Textile Corporation on the whole as unsatisfactory. Important steps taken by the Corporation to improve the working of the mills are as follows:—

(i) modernisation/renovation of the machinery;

(ii) rationalisation of surplus labour;

(iii) bulk procurement of raw material on centralised basis;

(iv) diversification in the pattern of production; and

(v) changes in the marketing strategy.

Price Freeze

*288. SHRI P THIAGARAJAN: SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported understanding among the industrialists to agree to a voluntary price freeze of commodities has been implemented;

(b) the probable value of the commodities involved as a proportion of the total value outside the price freeze;

(c) whether Government have taken up the question of securing the price freeze at a much lower level; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?