

(b) No such information has been received by Government.

(c) The prices of yarn have started falling since April 1967. The Excise Duty on sized yarn of superfine counts has also been reduced from Rs. 6.20 to Rs. 5.20 per kilogram. As a result, the powerlooms, which were closed, have resumed working. It is hoped that the existing accumulation will be cleared soon.

#### Engineering, Structural and Heavy Electricals Industries

\*1754. Shri Shiva Chandra Jha: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to tackle the recession in the engineering, structural and heavy electricals industries through a graduated plan, based on three main stages;

(b) if so, what are they;

(c) what will be the prospective market for these industries;

(d) whether Government have received any order for these goods from abroad; and

(e) if so, from which countries and what would be the total estimated foreign exchange earnings after meeting those orders?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) and (b). Attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to my reply to the debate on 'Demands for Grants' in this House on the 21st July, 1967 wherein I have outlined various steps for tackling the recessionary tendencies in engineering and other industries.

The Deputy Prime Minister in his speech on 24-7-1967 in this House also outlined some steps to fight the recessionary trends in the Engineering Industry.

(c) All over the world as is evident from the detailed statistics of these exports published fortnightly by the Engineering Export Promotion Council in Calcutta.

(d) and (e). Orders for engineering goods are regularly received by this country. Of the 2 trade delegations which went to West Asia recently one has come back. It has obtained substantial orders for engineering goods. It is expected that we shall be able to sell engineering goods worth more than a crore of rupees to these countries. The second delegation is yet to return. Continuous efforts are being made to secure orders for engineering goods from other countries of the world.

#### Printing of Border Designs on Powerloom Cloth

\*1755. Shri S. Kundu:  
Shri Kameshwar Singh:  
Shri Srimibas Misra:  
Shri A. Sreedharan:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Commissioner has issued notification prohibiting machine printing of Border designs of certain items of powerloom cloth;

(b) if so, when and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that due to such notification independent processors in the above line will be greatly affected leading to closure of mills, lay off and retrenchment of workers;

(d) if so, how many such mills are likely to be closed and how many workers likely to be laid off and retrenched; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by Government?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In December, 1966 and April, 1967. The notifications were issued to implement the recommendation made by the Study Team appointed in pursuance of the Santhanam Committee to undertake a review of the working of the Textile Commissioner's organisation. The Study Team recommended that system of grant of quotas for printing by composite mills and independent mechanical processors may be substituted by delimiting a field of production for the handprinters. This has been done to give protection to the hand printing industry which is cottage industry. This restriction applies in respect of printing on cloth produced by mills and powerlooms but excludes handloom cloth.

(c) No, Sir. Barring printing of sarees, bed spreads, bed covers, table covers with any heading or border, other types of printing can be done freely without any quota restrictions.

(d) and (e). Government is not aware of closure of mills on this account and hence question of workers being laid off or retrenched does not arise. Some complaints connected with this matter have been received and are under consideration.

#### Incentives to Paper Industry

\*1756. Shri N. K. Somani: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives given by Government to the indigenous paper industry to maximise production and thus attain the aim of self-sufficiency during the Third Five Year Plan and those envisaged during the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that unlike other industries, Government did not permit any price increase in the products of the Paper Industry despite the corresponding rise in the price of raw materials, wages and other inflationary factors; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) The following incentives have been given to the Paper Industry:—

- (1) The Paper Industry has been included in the list of 59 Priority Industries and as such its full requirements of imported raw materials are met.
- (2) New units established after March, 1964 are exempted from Excise duty on paper and paper board by 25 per cent, 20 per cent and 15 per cent in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years of production, respectively.
- (3) All units using 40 per cent or more of unconventional raw materials like jute sticks, straws, and bagasse have been granted concession from the payment of excise duty to the extent of Rs. 50 per tonne of paper.
- (4) Development rebate on new units or substantial expansions in the industry has been raised from 20 per cent to 35 per cent.
- (5) There is also in addition the general tax holiday for 5 years.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

#### कांस के साथ व्यापार

\*1757. श्री मोनेन्द्र झा: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ब्रिटेन के यूरोपीय साम्राज्य में शामिल होने के प्रयत्नों को देखते हुए भारत के हितों की रक्षा के लिये तथा यूरोपीय तथा अफ्रीकी देशों को निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिये कांस के साथ वार्षिक व्यापार पर