

were received from the cotton growers of Gujarat/their Associations/Cooperative Societies that they were holding stocks of cotton which they might be permitted to sell to the mills. It was agreed that they would be allowed to sell to mill's up to the permissible limits. In connection with another representation regarding credit facilities, the Textile Commissioner has asked for stock position and names of mills on behalf of which raw cotton is being held.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Cotton has been requisitioned as practicable. 88:650 bales have been requisitioned from October 1966 to May, 1967.

Exports to U. S. A.

*557. Shri S. R. Damani: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a visible shift in U.S.A's stand on trade preferences in favour of Indian manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). The announcement by President Johnson at the Summit Conference of the American Chiefs of States at Punta del Este, Uruguay in April, 1967, that the United States is ready to explore with other industrialised countries—and with other concerned—the possibility of temporary preferential tariff advantages for all developing countries in the markets of all the industrialised countries, may be regarded as a new and welcome approach to the question of preferences. There is no further information on the details of any scheme that the United States has in view.

D. A. to Employees to Jamalpur (E. R. Canteen)

*559. Shri Devan Sen: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of Jamalpur (Eastern Railway) Canteen which is being run departmentally, are not being paid Dearness Allowance at all or not at the rate at which other Railway employees are being paid;

(b) if so, the reason for discrimination as between Jamalpur canteen employees and other Railway employees in general; and

(c) the reason for treating canteen labour as casual labour when in fact they are employed in a Department which is likely to be a permanent Department of the Indian Railways?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) The canteen is not being run departmentally and therefore the question of payment of Dearness Allowance at rates applicable to Railway employees does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Export of Jute Goods

*560. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhulshwar Moena:
Shri Heerji Bhal:
Shri K. Pradhani:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our export of jute goods to various countries has diminished;

(b) the existing level of export of jute goods to various countries; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the export of our jute production?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-666/67].