

- (4) The essential requirements of imported raw materials components and spares are met fully.

HEDGING FACILITIES IN COTTON TRADE:

*852. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received for early start of hedging facility in the trade of cotton;

(b) whether it has been suggested that the restriction regarding duration of the delivery contracts confined to one month should be wholly removed; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is not contemplating reviving the hedging facilities in cotton trade. Other matters are under examination.

PRODUCTION OF PAPER AND PAPER BOARD

*853. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for stepping up the production of paper and paper board has not made much headway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

(c) whether the country is likely to face an acute shortage of paper and paper board in the coming years as a result of the slow progress of the paper industry; and

(d) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to meet the anticipated shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stagnation in the growth of Paper industry is due to high capital

cost involved in Paper Schemes, shortage of rupee capital, shortage of conventional raw materials and unremunerative prices of paper which continue to remain in force for the last 5 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

*854. SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1364 on the 20th February, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the Mehta Committee has since submitted its report on the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a)

Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Report has been received very recently and arrangements for its printing have been made. Examination of the recommendations and suggestions made in the Report has also been undertaken.

CATEGORISATION OF ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*855. SHRI KIKAR SINGH : SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : SHRI P. N. SOLANKI : SHRI R. K. AMIN : SHRI RAMCHANDRA J. AMIN : SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA : SHRI D. R. PARMAR : SHRI O. P. TYAGI : SHRI NAMBIAR : SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR : SHRI RAM SEWAK YADAV :