

- (d) the steps taken by Government to help these mills; and
- (e) the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :
 (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) 72 cotton textile mills closed during the year 1968. 39 of these have reopened, while 33 were still lying closed.
- (c) About 31260 workers.

(d) and (e). Eight mills have already been investigated under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, and the reports are under examination. Eight mills are currently under investigation and their cases will be considered after reports of the investigation Committees are received. Cases of four mills are under litigation. The steps to be taken in respect of the remaining 13 mills are under examination in consultation with the State Government's concerned.

Coir Scheme in Kerala

*10. **SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :**
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Kerala have requested the Central Government to take over the Coir Scheme as a Central sector Scheme;
- (b) if so, the decision taken thereon;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government have requested the Centre to provide Rs. 13.38 crores for giving loans and Rs. 212 lakhs for giving grants to the societies;

(d) if so, whether the same has been provided; and

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R.

BHAGAT) : (a) to (e). The Kerala Government have submitted a detailed plan for reorganisation and development of coir industry in the State. The plan involves an expenditure of Rs. 13.45 crores as loans and Rs. 2.11 crores as grants. The State Government have suggested that the entire expenditure should be met by the Central Government. The plan is under detailed examination in consultation with the concerned authorities.

Import of Tallow

*11. **SHRI J. B. SINGH :**
SHRI SHRI GOPAL SABOO :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

- (a) The quantity of tallow imported during the last three years ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the consumption of tallow in the manufacture of soap is less than what is imported;
- (c) if so, the quantum of soap manufactured during the last three years;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that tallow is being used in the manufacture of vegetable ghee by some concerns; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop the use of tallow in the manufacture of vegetable ghee ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

1. Statement Showing the Quantity of Tallow Imported During the Last Three Years

Year	Quantity (in tonnes)
1965-66	43,342
1966-67	19,552
1967-68	1,27,395