

entry to nearly 50 Sikh pilgrims including many women and children who were going to visit Dehra Sahib Curdwara on the 18th May, 1969 ;

(b) if so, whether any protest was lodged by Government with Pakistani authorities ; and

(c) the reaction of Pakistani Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) 79 pilgrims were refused entry in to Pakistan on 17th May, 1969, because they arrived late at the border checkpost which had closed for the day.

(b) We have told the Pakistan Government that they should have been a little more considerate towards the pilgrims in this case.

(c) The reply from the Pakistan Government is still awaited.

#### Expansion of Indian Navy

\*227. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :  
SHRI S. S. KOTHARI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our Navy is in a primitive stage and is inadequate to the requirement of the country ;

(b) whether requirement of the Navy is likely to increase in view of the proposed British withdrawal from the Indian ocean ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to expand the Navy ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The requirements of the Indian Navy are related to its tasks in the maritime defence of the country.

(c) Government have taken a number of steps for the modernisation and strengthening of the Navy. Principally these steps in-

clude procurement of new ships, construction of frigates, Minesweepers, Seaward Defence Boats, tugs and other ancillary vessels in India, and establishment of a submarine arm.

#### Committee on Textile Mills

\*228. SHRI DHIRESHWAR KALITA :  
SHRI J. M. BISWAS ;  
SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :

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

(a) whether the recommendations made by the Manubhai Shah Committee on the merger of sick textile mills with stronger ones has been examined by the Government ; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). A working Group has been set up to examine the implications of merger of weak cotton textile mills with sound ones. The report of the Group is awaited.

#### Review on Indian citizenship and nationality rules

\*229. SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 8184 on the 30th April, 1969 regarding the review of Indian Citizenship and Nationality Rules and State:

(a) whether Government have since considered the suggestion made by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court regarding Indian Citizenship and Nationality rules ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). This matter is still under consideration.