

units in Karnataka are not able to function at their optimum capacity. This is a fact and there is no contradiction in this. There is power shortage and it has been there over a period of time. Last year we lost half a million tonnes of cement production only because adequate power was not available in certain States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

AN HON. MEMBER: In Karnataka under which Government?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is because Shri Devraj Urs was in power and he continues to be there.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Annual Plan for West Bengal

*334. SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE:
 PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:
 SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE:
 SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the amount asked for by the West Bengal Government and sanctioned by the Planning Commission for the Annual Plan of that State for the year 1977-78?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): For 1977-78 Annual Plan, the Government of West Bengal proposed an outlay of Rs. 312.12 crores. After discussions, an amount of Rs. 310.92 crores was mutually agreed upon. Subsequently, an additional outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores was sanctioned for major and medium irrigation projects and Rs. 9.50 crore for minor irrigation projects raising the total plan outlay to Rs. 325 crores, was also approved as special Central assistance for hill areas of West Bengal.

Stoppage of import of mutton tallow used in the manufacture of soap

*336. SHRI S. KUMARAN:
 SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stop the import of mutton tallow used in the manufacture of soap;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be its impact on the prices of soap?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Import of mutton tallow is allowed to soap manufacturers other than those in the organised sector. This policy is followed in order to encourage use of non-edible and non-conventional oils in soap making.

(c) The prices of soap are not related only to import of mutton tallow but dependant on cost of different inputs which vary from time to time.

Crisis in the handloom industry in Kerala

*338. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the handloom industry in Kerala is facing a serious crisis;

(b) whether the Government of India propose to provide immediate relief to the handloom industry in that State; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government of Kerala have reported that there is accumulation of handloom goods worth Rs. 4.25 crores in Kerala State. Out of this Rs. 2 crores is with handloom primary cooperative