

**Profit/loss of NTC mills**

645. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the number of mills which the National Textile Corporation was managing last year and what is the number of mills it is managing during the current year; and

(b) what was the profit/loss during the last year in running these mills and what is the profit/loss so far during the current year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) With effect from 1st April, 1974, 103 sick textile mills vested in the National Textile Corporation. However, NTC has not been able to take physical possession of two mills due to stay orders granted by the courts of law. The management of two more textile mills has been taken over under the provisions of the Laxmirattan and Atherton West Cotton Mills (Taking Over of Management) Ordinance, 1976 which was promulgated on the 19th July, 1976. National Textile Corporation has been appointed as Custodian of these two mills.

(b) The mills incurred a loss of about Rs. 61.10 crores during 1975-76 and a loss of about 6.59 crores during 1976-77 (up to June, 1976).

**Decline in import of raw Cashewnuts**

646. SHRI S. KUMARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of raw cashewnuts is likely to be very low this year as compared to the import during the last year resulting in a set back to the cashewnuts processing industry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a)

and (b) Yes, Sir. The short crop in Tanzania and Mozambique, accentuated by their policy of finding alternative buyers for their exportable surpluses of raw cashew-nuts have caused a sharp drop in the availability of supplies for import during 1976-77.

**Expansion of Aranyaniwas Hotel**

647. SHRI S. KUMARAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government have requested the Central Government for financial assistance for the second stage of expansion of Aranyaniwas Hotel, Thekkady being undertaken by the Kerala State Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's decision thereon; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of the work and what is the actual expenditure so far incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala has requested the release of funds amounting to Rs. 2,86,010 as Central Government's share towards the second stage of expansion of the Aranyaniwas Hotel at Thekkady which has now been completed. The requisite amount will be released on the completion of certain formalities.

(c) The total expenditure on the second stage of expansion as intimated by the State Government is Rs. 5,77,522 of which the Central Government's share is Rs 2,86,010.

**Excise Duty relief on certain goods**

648. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :