

consideration of their application for setting up cement plants; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA) : (a) and (b) The application made by Birla Jute Manufacturing Company Limited for the establishment of a cement clinker plant was referred to the M.R.T.P. Commission on 16-7-1973 and the undertaking requested the Commission for fixation of a date for public hearing in the third week of August, 1973 as it wanted the assistance of the Advocate who was not available before the middle of August. The Commission gave a hearing on the 18th September, 1973. No request was received from any other Birla concern for postponement of consideration of its application for setting up cement plants.

Shortfall in Nylon Yarn Output

462. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is 50 per cent shortfall in the nylon yarn output; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) From April 1973 there has been a considerable drop in production compared to the peak level of March 1973.

(b) Inadequate availability of caprolactam of which there is a world-wide shortage at present.

Expansion of Haldia Refinery

\$590. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: '

SHRI SHOWALESS K. SHILLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expansion of Haldia refinery has been shelved; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) In the context of steep and continuing increases in the price of crude oil and the need to curtail the growth in consumption of petroleum products in the country, the targets for refining capacity to be achieved at the end of Fifth Plan are still under consideration. Therefore, no firm decision has yet been taken on the proposal for the expansion of Haldia Refinery.

12 NOON

RE LOCK-OUT IN INDIAN AIRLINES

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to announce that Shri Raj Bahadur will make a statement in this House on the lock-out in Indian Airlines after he is free from the Lok Sabha where he is making a statement on the same question.