

t[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b) Government propose to export a substantial quantity of raw jute this year in view of the bumper crop. The exact quantity will depend upon market conditions. This export is expected to help the firming up of domestic prices and thereby benefit the producers.]

Modernisation of textile mills

792. SHRIMATI SA VIT A BEHEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

tb) whether any comprehensive programme has been chalked out for modernisation of textile industry during the Fifth Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is financial outlay thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b) The Indian Cotton Mill Federation has asked the cotton textile mills to formulate proposals for ' modernisation for the next five years. The Indian Woollen Mills' Federation and the Association of Man-Made Fibre Industry are also being asked to obtain similar proposals from their constituent units. Government will review the proposals on receipt, with particular reference to the financial outlay thereon and the foreign exchange content in particular.

Canalising import of polyethylene powder and rough blanks through S.T.C.

793. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of materials like high density/low density Polyethylene Powder and Rough Blanks against the Release Orders issued by the

†[] English translation.

Chief Controller of Imports and Exports are made by the State Trading Corporation through private agencies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that canalisation of import of such materials costs more to the Release Order holders;

(c) whether Government propose to canalise the import of the materials referred to above direct through the S.T.C.; and

(d) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. High and low density polyethylene moulding powder is imported by the STC through the agents of the foreign manufacturers at present. The Corporation is, however, trying to arrange long term supplies from the manufacturers directly. As regards rough blanks, the import is already being made from foreign suppliers.

(b) No, Sir. The STC has been able to get higher discount from foreign suppliers because of bulk purchases and this benefit is passed on to the actual users.

(c) and (d) Import of Low Density Polyethylene and High Density Polyethylene was canalised through the STC from April, 1972 and November, 1972, respectively. Import of rough blanks was canalised through STC in April, 1972.

Export trade take-over

794. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private export houses working in the country;

(b) the volume of export business in terms of rupees done by these houses during the last three years ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take-over all kinds of export trade ?