

for the current financial year 1973-74, in the context of the Consortium meeting which was held at Paris later in June, 1973.

His discussions covered various aspects of this assistance such as debt relief, non-project assistance and project aid as also the terms of assistance.

Subsequently at the Aid India Consortium meeting held in Paris on the 14th and 15th June, 1973, the Government of Japan pledged a sum of approximately Yen 15 Billion (Rs. 36 crores) as debt relief and a sum of Yen 7 Billion (Rs. 16.8 crores) as non-project assistance for the year 1973-74.

As regards project aid, no specific pledge was made at the Consortium meeting, and the quantum, terms and modalities of such aid are separately under discussion between the two Governments in the context of a request made by the Government for financing the foreign exchange costs of the fertilizer plants.

Negotiations are also continuing between the two Governments for translating the assistance pledged by Japan into specific agreements.

Exhibition of 'Son-et-Lumiere' in West Bengal

*342. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA .

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No 1255 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 1972 and state :

(a) whether Government have since selected a suitable site for the mounting of a son et-lumiere project in West Bengal and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The suitability of various sites is being examined.

Distribution, control and price of cloth

*343 SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN :

SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recommended to Government to meet out a radical restructuring of the policies towards the textile industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) The Bureau has carried out a Cost-Price study on cotton textiles and has made a number of recommendations dealing with raw cotton, the area of control, the basis for pricing, renovation and selective modernisation and technical and managerial efficiency.

(b) The recommendations of the Bureau, which are of a detailed nature are under active consideration and Government have not yet formulated their views thereon. Government expects to take decisions before the expiry of three months from the commencement of the Voluntary Price Restraint Scheme for non-controlled cloth introduced w e f. 20 7-73.

Rajasthan Government's Request for 'Ad hoc' Grant to Meet Drought Situation

*344. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI
KI MARI CHUNDAWAT :

SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN
ARIF :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government have recently requested the Union Government for an ad hoc grant of Rs. 20 crores to meet the drought situation in that State; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1973-74 a sum of Rs. 10 crores has so far been released to the State Government. Further assistance will be released on the basis of the periodical review undertaken by the Central team.