

from voluntary agencies the Committee has left the decision to Government. The report of the Committee is under examination.

SHORTAGE OF RAW CASHEW NUTS

65. SHRI S. KUMARAN :

SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN :

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of raw cashew nuts in the country;

(b) whether this shortage has adversely affected production in the cashew factories and the export of cashew kernels; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government for stepping up production and import of raw cashew nuts to ensure adequate supply of raw nuts to the cashew factories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) The installed capacity of the cashew processing industry being considerably more than the availability of raw nuts, imported and indigenous, such shortage has been a chronic feature. This year the shortage is likely to be slightly more owing to decreased availability in overseas markets.

(c) Sustained effort to import more raw nuts is being made through the Cashew Corporation. Steps to increase indigenous production and to optimise collection of nuts are also being taken.

YARN SHORTAGE IN ASSAM AND WEST BENGAL

66. SHRI NIREN GHOSH :

SHRI GOLAP BARBORA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Statesman on May 26, 1973 under the heading "Yarn shortage";

(b) the total quantity of yarn required for powerloom industries in Assam and West Bengal per month;

(c) the total yarn production in and the quantity supplied to each State from January to June, 1973; and

(d) what steps have been taken to make adequate supply of yarn to the powerloom industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (Shri A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allotment of yarn to decentralised sector is made on the basis of the number of handlooms and powerlooms in the State. According to requirements indicated by State Governments the quantities are as follows:—

(i) Assam—7.5 lakh Kgs.

(ii) West Bengal—23.00 lakh Kgs.

(c) (i) Total yarn production for January—May, 1973, is as under:—

January	83.4	million	kgs.
February	72.2	"	"
March	70.5
April	67.8
May	73.8

Production figures for June are not yet available. Yarn available for decentralised sector is about 40% of the total production.

(ii) The supplies made to Assam and West Bengal from 13th March to June, 1973 from which date Statutory Control was introduced, are as given below:—

Assam	10.53 lakhs Kgs.
West Bengal	49.12 , ,

(d) Allotments of yarn under the Control Order are being made as per availability, in the context of the overall shortage of yarn following power-cuts in many States. With the lifting of these cuts, an improvement is expected in the availability of yarn.

Inauguration of Project Tiger

67. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Project Tiger has been inaugurated; and