

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The Accounts of the Indian Tea Centre in London which has been established as a part of Tea Board's promotional campaign and not as a Commercial venture are showing working deficits.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of curled coir

1247 **SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:**

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total foreign exchange earned from the export of curled coir during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): The total foreign exchange earned from the export of curled coir during the last three financial years is Rs. 18.67 lakhs.

Setting up of spinning mills in Maharashtra

1248 **SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:**

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have proposed to Central Government to set up a number of spinning mills in order to make the State self-sufficient in cotton yarn; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir. 17 applications have been received from the Maharashtra State Power Loom Corporation Ltd. (a Government of Maharashtra Undertaking) for grant of licences under the Industries

(D&R) Act, 1951 for the setting up of new spinning mills at different places of Maharashtra.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra, for the present, recommended only four applications for setting up of new cotton spinning mills of 25,000 spindles each in the co-operative sector at Malegaon, Bhibandli, Dhulia and Khanpur. Letter of Intent has since been issued in all these four cases. As advised by the State Government 9 applications are not being considered at present. The remaining four applications are for setting up of new spinning units in the Joint Sector. Under the existing policy new spinning mills are to be set up either in the co-operative or public sector and not joint sector. State Government have been informed accordingly.

Introduction of Air-Taxi Service

1249. **SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start air-taxi service in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The matter is not being pursued for the time being.

Grant of import licences

1250. **SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for grant of import licences which are pending with the Government for the last one year; and

(b) the number of licences granted during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The number of applications for Import Licences pending in the Import and Export Trade Control Organisation for