

hern region. The functioning of the nationalised banks is continually under review with a view to ensure that the quality of services rendered by them in the fulfilment of the objective of the nationalisation shows progressive improvement.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN AIR INDIA AND BOAC ON UTILISATION OF COMMUNICATION CHANNELS**

491. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON:  
SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement was concluded between Air India and BOAC recently about utilising the communication channels of the latter; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Air India has entered into an agreement with BOAC for participation in their Real Time Computer System known as BOADICEA, which incorporates some of the communication channels of BOAC. This system will be utilised by Air India for transmission of their reservation and load messages.

**COTTON MILLS TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT**

492. SHRI N.R. CHOUDHURY :  
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI KALYAN ROY :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton mills taken over by the Government so far;

(b) the financial assistance rendered to such mills during the past three years; and

(c) whether any additional employment avenues have been created thereby in these mills; if so, the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE): (a) Central Government

have so far taken over the management of 57 cotton textile mills undertakings under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Further, the management of 46 more textile mills has vested in the Central Government as per the Sick Textile Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Ordinance, 1972 (No. 9 of 1972), which was promulgated on the 31st October, 1972.

(b) During the last three years, i.e., 1969-0, 1970-71 and 1971-72, the Central Government through the National Textile Corporation Ltd. have advanced loans totalling Rs. 1153.43 lakhs for working capital, modernisation and labour rationalisation, to these mills.

(c) As a result of taking over the management of 51 textile mills under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 employment has been restored to over one lakh workers. By running the 46 mills the management of which vests in the Central Government under the said Ordinance about 0.60 lakhs more workers will be re-employed.

**INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF MMTC**

493. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :  
SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the group set up to enquire into the working of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE): (a) to (c) The report of the Evaluation Team is under preparation.

**CLOSURE OF HOSIERY MILLS IN LUDHIANA**

494. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the closure of the hosiery mills in Ludhiana (Punjab), resulting in