

SETTING UP OF JUTE FACTORIES IN BIHAR

825. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the fact that Bihar is the largest producer of jute, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has recommended that two jute mills for producing carpet backings and packing materials be set up in that State; and

(b) whether any decision in the matter has been taken by Government; if so, the details of the scheme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a) Bihar is not the largest producer of jute. The Institute had suggested the establishment of a few jute mills in the jute growing districts of the State to increase the production of quality jute.

(b) The Bihar State Government have been requested to formulate suitable plans for establishment of a new jute mill in the State.

Besides this, the Government of Bihar have also been requested to give their consent for taking over the existing three jute mills—2 at Katihar and 1 at Muktapui under I.D.R. Act for their modernisation and improvement.

घटिया किस्म के गैस सिलिन्डरों का उत्पादन

826. श्री सूरज प्रसाद : क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत दो वर्षों में गैस सिलिन्डरों के फट जाने के कारण दिल्ली में कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई;

(ख) घटिया किस्म के गैस सिलिन्डरों के उत्पादन को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं ; और

(ग) गैस सिलिन्डर बनाने वाली ऐसी कौन-कौन सी कम्पनियाँ और फर्म हैं जो घटिया किस्म के गैस सिलिन्डर बनाती हुई पार्स गई हैं ?

PRODUCTION OF SUB-STANDARD GAS CYLINDERS

826. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who died as a result of gas cylinder explosions in Delhi during the last two years;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the production of sub-standard gas cylinders; and

(c) the names of the gas cylinder manufacturing companies and firms which have been found manufacturing sub-standard Gas Cylinders?]

बिधि और न्याय तथा पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (श्री एच० झार० गोखले) : (क) गत दो वर्षों में दिल्ली में तेल कम्पनियों द्वारा सप्लाई किये गये कुकिंग गैस सिलिन्डरों के फट जाने के परिणामस्वरूप कोई मौत नहीं हुई थी ।

(ख) तरल पेट्रोलियम गैस (एल० पी० जी०) का विक्रय करने वाली तेल कम्पनियाँ केवल उन सिलिन्डरों को स्वीकार करती हैं जो भारतीय मानक संस्थान द्वारा निर्धारित विशिष्टियों के अनुसार जांचे जाते हैं तथा प्रमाणित किये जाते हैं ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

[THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) :

(a) There have been no deaths as a result of explosions to cooking gas cylinders supplied by the Oil Companies in Delhi during the last two years.

(b) The Oil Companies market Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), accept

only the cylinders which are tested and certified to be according to the specifications laid down by the Indian Standard Institution.

(c) Does not arise.]

ENQUIRY IN TO BALARAMVARMA TEXTILE MILLS, SHENCOTTAH

827. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri C. A. Subramaniam, to investigate into the affairs of the Balaramvarma Textile Mills, Shencottah, Tamil Nadu has submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations and what decision Government have taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has recommended that the management of the mill may be taken over by Government under section 18A of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. The Committee's recommendations are being considered.

RAILWAY TRACK FOR WEST COAST

828. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to lay railway track on the West Coast; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) Engineering Reconnaissance and Traffic

Surveys for a new line from Apta to Mangalore in the West Coast region have been completed and the survey reports have recently been received in the Board's office.

A decision regarding the construction of this line will be taken after the survey reports are examined by the Board from all angles and the results thereof be made known.

EXPORTS OF SANTINIKETAN BAGS AND PURSES

829. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the manufacturers of famous Santiniketan bags and purses in West Bengal have not been able to cope with their export commitments of goods worth 150,000 U.S. Dollars by July this year; if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : Yes, Sir. The reasons are great demand in foreign markets for tanned sheepskin, which is used for the manufacture of Sami-niketan leather bags and purses, and the exorbitant prices of this type of leather in India.

OVERBRIDGE AT KULTI STATION

830. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government's attention has been drawn to the public demand for an overbridge at the crossing of the Kultu railway station in West Bengal; if so, the action so far taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : Yes. As per extant procedure, the proposals for construction of road over/under bridges in replacement of existing busy level crossings are to be sponsored by the State Government/Road Authority who also give an undertaking to bear their share of the cost.