

announcement of the 16-point programme whose progress is constantly reviewed. The Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India has been established with headquarters in Calcutta to revive the sick/closed units. The Corporation is at present restricting its activity to the State of West Bengal. The State Government has announced an incentive scheme for attracting industries to West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal has reported that in response to these measures there has been an appreciable improvement in the industrial activity and investment climate in the State.

RAW MATERIAL BANK

131. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR
MUKHERJEE :

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :

SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to establish Raw Material Bank in the State of West Bengal for steady supply of raw materials to the industrial units in the State, and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). The State Government of West Bengal has been asked to explore the possibilities of creating a Raw Material Bank for meeting emergent needs of their units.

REHABILITATION OF PAPER MILLS IN WEST BENGAL

132. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Paper Mills Association has urged the Government to review the cases of the paper mills in West Bengal for their speedy rehabilitation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to rehabilitate these units ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) No proposals have been received either from Indian Paper Mills Association or the State Government for rehabilitation of paper mills in West Bengal.

(b) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF OLD MACHINERY

133. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allowed Indian Industrialists to import old machinery and plants; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the change in import policy ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) As a rule, import of second-hand machinery and plant is not permitted. Import of old machinery and plant is allowed only when there is adequate justification and the old machinery found in good condition, certified by Chartered Engineers as having a long period of useful life, and also when such plant and equipment are available at a positively economical price owing to the rapid obsolescence of technology and machinery in developed countries. However, to safeguard against the import of completely worn out and out of date machinery into the country, all requests