

SHRI J. P. YADAV:
SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/
विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that a unanimous demand for the setting up of the Marine Products Export Promotion Authority in Kerala was made in the Kerala Legislative Assembly on the 6th August, 1971; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/**विदेश
व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री** (SHRI A. C.
GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided that the location of the headquarters of the proposed Marine Products Export Development Authority will be at Cochin (Kerala).

MODERNISATION OF TEXTILE MILLS

*166. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUK-
HOPKINS: SHRI MAHATOSH
PURAKAYA-
STHA: SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHAN-
DARI: SHRI I. A. L. K. ADVANI:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MA-
THUR:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/
विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state the details of the steps being taken by Government for the modernisation of textile mills in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE/
विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N. MISHRA):
A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Keeping in view the need for improving the competitiveness of the production for exports and to encourage product adaptation and diversification for export purposes

it has been decided to permit import of certain items of sophisticated textile machinery on the basis of past export performance. It is expected that the essential requirement of exporting mills will be met as far as possible, depending upon the foreign exchange and their sources from time to time.

It has also been decided that in view of the problem of unemployment and the utilisation of idle capacity the need for modernisation of the weaker mills also wherever necessary through imports of machinery should be kept in view. In this connection, a Working Group under the chairmanship of the Managing Director, National Textile Corporation has been studying the question of modernisation of weak and marginal cotton textile mills and the report of the group is awaited. Proposals for import of sophisticated machinery from mills under the control of the National Textile Corporation will be considered on priority basis.

PROMOTION OF EXPORTS OF SMALL SCALE SECTOR

*167. SHRIMATI VIMAL PUNJAB
DESHMUKH: SHRI A. G.
KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/
विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government (S.T.C.) have taken for the promotion of exports by the small scale sector, particularly the sophisticated and non-traditional items; and

(b) the quantity and value of the items exported by the small scale sector during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/
विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI
A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) A statement is
laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The S.T.C. has enlisted the support of the State Small Industries Corporations for promotion of exports by Small Scale