

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c) A statement containing the required information is enclosed.

STATEMENT

A Memorandum setting out the problems of the Coffee Growers in Kerala State was submitted to Government in December, 1970. The more important among the points covered in the Memorandum related to larger representation for coffee Growers on the Board, adequate return to Growers for the coffee delivered by them, simplification of procedures for levy of various taxes on coffee, issue of forms of transport permits in the regional language, strengthening of the technical, advisory and extension services provided by the Coffee Board in Wynad area, and intensification of measure to promote coffee consumption in the country, etc. The Memorandum has been examined in detail in consultation with the Coffee Board. Some of the points raised by the Growers have already been met, as indicated below :—

(1) The payment made by the Coffee Board on the coffee delivered by Growers into the Pool has already been higher than the cost of production, as determined for each season's crop.

(2) Steps have already been taken to strengthen the technical, advisory and extension services of the Coffee Board in the Wynad area.

(?) Transport permits have now been made available in the regional language, viz. Malayalam.

(4) The Coffee Board is formulating schemes for a major crash programme of promoting consumption of coffee in the country.

(5) Coffee Growers are already represented adequately on the Coffee Board, and no further enlargement of their representation is considered necessary.

The other points made in the representation have been remitted to appropriate

authorities of the State Governments who are primarily concerned in the matter.

RUBBER BOARD

883. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR :

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

(a) whether Government have recently received any representation from or on behalf of the Employees of the Rubber Board, Kottayam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) The Rubber Board Staff Association have represented against :—

(i) The absorption of an Accountant as Deputy Accounts Officer in the Rubber Board; and

(ii) The retention on deputation of a Superintendent (Training) from the Office of the Accountant General, Kerala.

These are being looked into.

COMPLAINTS OF SHRI TARSAM CHAND OF CHANDIGARH REGARDING HIS KIDNAPPING BY THE POLICE

884. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :
SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON :
SHRI M.V. BHADRAM :
SHRI S. KUMARAN :
SHRI KALYAN ROY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS/ *MV be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to complaints of Shri Tarsam Chand of Chandigarh that he was kidnapped on April 5, 1971 from his residence in Sector 35-B Chandigarh by some policemen who made him over to two other policemen who tried to murder him;

(b) whether the complaints have been inquired into;

(c) if so, the results of the inquiry; and

(d) what action, if any has been taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K.C. PANI) : (a) According to the Chandigarh Administration, no such complaint was received.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

885. [Transferred to the 18/6 June, 1971]

CLOSURE OF AJUDHIA TEXTILE MILLS

886. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :
SHRI MONORANJAN ROY :
SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULY :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Committee to look into the reasons for the closure of Ajudhia Textile Mills, Azadpur, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the report of the Committee is likely to be submitted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) An Investigation Committee was appointed, under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, for the purpose of making full and complete investigation into the affairs of the Mill. The composition of the Committee was as follows :—

1. Shri H. C. Jain—*Chairman*
2. Shri M. G. Mirchandani—*Member*
3. Shri K. K. Dhar—*Member*
4. Shri T. S. V. Panduranga Sarma—*Member*
5. Shri L. N. Saklani—*Member*
6. Shri G. A. Sheth—*Member-Secretary* (c)

The Committee has already submitted its report.

COIR INDUSTRY IN KERALA

887. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the details relating to Central assistance made available for the development of coir industry in Kerala during the Fourth Plan period; and

(b) the amount utilised so far by the Kerala Government out of the said assistance ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) A statement on the subject is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Central assistance to the States is given through block grants and loans, covering all Plan heads of development and it is left to the discretion of the State Governments to utilise the assistance according to priorities. In the case of Kerala State, total Central assistance during the Fourth Plan period is Rs. 175 crores, and for the first three years of the Fourth Plan, the break-up has been as below :—

1970-71	Rs. 30.95 crores
1971-72	Rs. 35.00 crores

A fixed proportion of 30% of the Central assistance is allotted to each State in the form of grants and the balance of 70% by way of loans.

Even though the final outlays for Village & Small Industries (which covers the Coir Industry) have not been earmarked by the Centre, there is an approved Fourth Plan provision of Rs. 10.43 crores for the development of Kerala's village and small industries. Out of this, the State Government has made a provision of Rs. 3 crores for the Coir Industry.

The actual expenditure incurred by the Kerala Government out of Central assistance for the development of the coir industry during the first two years of the Fourth Plan period is estimated to be Rs. 90.57 lakhs (Rs. 44.12 lakhs in 1969-70 and Rs. 46.45 lakhs in 1970-71).

888. [Transferred to the 16/6 June, 1971]