

(b) if so, what measures Government have in view for achieving the two-fold objective of securing an increase in cotton production as envisaged in the Fourth Five Year Plan and ensuring price stability.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK):
(a) and (b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

It is not correct to ascribe rise in prices of cotton to any single factor. Damage to cotton crop in certain parts of the country, 'rush' purchases by some mills disproportionate purchases by trade and delay in arrival of foreign cotton are some of the important factors responsible for the recent rise in cotton prices.

Besides, augmentation of cotton supplies by accelerating imports and arranging additional imports, certain regulatory measures have been taken to correct the price trends. Efforts are being made to develop cotton production on the following lines:

- (i) Plant protection in irrigated and assured rainfall areas.
- (ii) Aerial spraying of pesticides.
- (iii) Production of nucleus and foundation seeds.
- (iv) Grading of Kapas.
- (v) Organisation of varietal demonstration plots.

POSTS OF STENOGRAPHY INSTRUCTORS/ STENOGRAPHERS IN DELHI ADMINISTRATION

1368. SHRI R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the reasons for which the posts of stenography instructors/stenographers working in the pay scale of Rs. 210-425, under the Delhi Administration have not been converted into substantive ones, despite the fact that these posts are in continuance since 1952; and

(b) whether any action is now being contemplated for conversion of such posts into permanent ones and if so, what?

[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT):
(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXXIV, Annexure No. 84].

WITHDRAWAL OF TARIFF PREFERENCES

1369. SHRI M. K. MOHTA:
SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to withdraw tariff preferences that it has been giving to some East African countries; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth countries in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK):

(a) The Government of India have not received or made such a proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

BAN ON SALE OF POTASSIUM CHLORATE IN NEIGHBOURING STATE OF WEST BENGAL

1370. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:
SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal have recommended to the Central Government to ban the sale of Potassium Chlorate without licence in the neighbouring States with a