

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to fix ceiling on production of cotton clothes by the mills and decentralise sectors of the textile industry during the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(b) whether Government have consulted the industry in this regard and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :

(a) The question of laying down targets of production of cotton textiles by the decentralised sector and the mill sector during the Fourth Plan period is under consideration of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS' THREAT TO INDIA FOR TIES WITH HANOI AND VIETCONG

***260. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the American officials in New Delhi warned India on the 20th September last that in case India strengthened its ties with Hanoi and Vietcong, it would imperil American aid to and trade with India ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) and (b) There was an exchange of views between the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and the American Embassy on the 20th September, 1969. Such exchange of views is kept confidential. However it has been stated by the U. S. authorities that raising of the level of India's representation in Hanoi or the recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam will have adverse reaction in U. S. A.

It is for the Government of India to decide their bilateral relations with foreign countries bearing in mind their national interests. U. S. Government does not dispute this position.

HIGH POWER COMMISSION ON REGIONAL IMBALANCES

***261. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demand has been made by any of the States for appointment of a high power national commission on regional imbalances ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government in the matter ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

INDIAN TEACHERS IN ETHIOPIA

***262. SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 211 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1969 and state :

(a) whether our Embassy in Addis Ababa has looked into the complaints of Indian teachers in Ethiopia and taken necessary action to help them get over their difficulties ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is being pursued with the Ethiopian authorities in order to arrive at a solution of the problem to the satisfaction of all concerned.

सिक्किम तथा भूटान में भारत विरोधी पर्वों तथा पुस्तिकाओं का बांटा जाना

***263. श्री रेवती कांत सिंह :** क्या वंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि सिक्किम तथा भूटान में भारत विरोधी पर्वों तथा पुस्तिकाएं बांटी जा रही हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त भारत विरोधी साहित्य नेपाल से आ रहा है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?