

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

INSHORE MINE SWEEPER

1237. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in building of a second inshore mine sweeper ; and

(b) the time by when it is expected to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) The second Inshore Mine sweeper which is being built at Mazagon Dock Ltd., Bombay was launched on 17th May, 1969 and is at present being fitted out.

(b) The vessel is expected to be completed and delivered in August, 1970.

APPLICATIONS FOR PASSPORTS

1238. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who applied for passports during the year 1967-68 and till May 1969 with the names of the countries proposed to be visited ;

(b) the number of persons granted passports during the above period ; and

(c) whether any persons were refused passports during the above period ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PREMIUM ON LICENCES

1239. SHRI RIZAQ RAM :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article by Prof. B. R. Shenoy in the Times of India dated the 23rd May, 1968 in which he has stated that the total value of the premiums on the licences during the period 1960-61 to 1967-68 comes to about Rs. 750 crores a year ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government has no information on the subject and is not aware of the basis on which the estimate of undue profit has been made. Having regard to the fact that the direct imports made on behalf of public sector undertakings and also Government account for more than half of total imports and the bulk of import licences issued to private importers are in respect of actual users to cover requirements of raw materials, capital equipment etc., the scope for abuse is not unlimited. Further, trafficking in import licences is an offence punishable under the Import Control Order.

DIRECTORS OF THE TEXTILE CORPORATION

1240. DR. SALIG RAM :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the names along with the qualifications of the Directors of the Textile Corporation ; and

(b) the number of sick mills that have been taken over by the Corporation so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) The names and qualifications of the Directors of the National Textile Corporation are given below :

1. Shri S. R. Vasavada, Chairman (Part-time)—General Secretary, Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, and Member of Parliament.

2. Shri H. Nanjundiah, Managing Director—Formerly Industries Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra

3. Shri J. P. Shingh, Director (Financial)—Formerly Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

4. Shri M. G. Mirchandani, Director (Technical)—Practical experience of over 25 years in private sector of the cotton textile industry.

5. Shri Devindra Nath, Director—Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Supply (Government representative).

6. Shri R. Mahadevan, Director—Deputy Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance (Government representative).

(b) In the case of two mills for which State Textile Corporations have been appointed as Authorised Controllers, the National Textile Corporation has agreed to provide 51% of the funds required for the running of the mills.

EXPORT OF PRODUCTS OF COMMERCIAL CROPS

1241. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state the present yearly exports of products of commercial crops and to what extent their exports are likely to be increased during the Fourth Five Year Plan period ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : Annual exports of India's commercial crops and products thereof during the years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 was of the order of Rs. 732.46 crores, Rs. 740.94 crores and Rs. 745.38 crores respectively. The level of exports of these products is expected to increase during the Fourth Five Year Plan period depending upon favourable climatic conditions and other factors. It is therefore very difficult to specify the exact extent of the likely increase in level of exports during the Fourth Five Year Plan period (1969—1974). Information relating to export targets for some major products/product groups is available in Draft Fourth Five Year Plan 1969—74 (table 6 on page 40), a copy of which has already been laid on the Table of the House. Detailed targets for major individual export items are in the process of being worked out.

EXPORT OF BLENDED AND PACKETED TEA

1242. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts have been made to sell blended and packeted tea to foreign countries in addition to the usual sale of tea ;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to enter markets outside the United Kingdom with tea in Indian packets exported directly by India ; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

EXPORT OF COTTON TEXTILE

1243. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of Foreign Trade and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of cotton textiles showed an increase during the year 1969 ;

(b) if so, to what extent ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to step up the export further ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Exports up to June, 1969 went up by about Rs. 681.4 lakhs over the same period in 1968.

(c) The existing export promotion measures have been continued and intensified to the extent necessary and feasible. Constant watch is being kept and fresh measures as are considered necessary will be taken.

TRADE FACILITIES TO NEPAL

1244. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal is seeking more trade facilities from India ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and