

the Communist parties about regional cooperation and collective Asian Security and

(b) if so, what is Government's reliance thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL JINGH) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government welcome proposals for regional economic cooperation which will promote stability, prosperity and security in the region, but oppose establishment of military groupings.

CRISIS IN ART SILK INDUSTRY IN PUNJAB

308. SARDAR (URCHARAN SINGH TOHRA) : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Punjab have expressed their concern to the Union Government over the continuous deterioration in the working of the art silk industry in Punjab because of the rising cost of the art silk yarn ;

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Punjab twice met the Prime Minister and urged the Central Government to intervene through control either over price or over distribution of art silk yarn ; and

(c) if, so the action taken by the Government of India in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b) Central Government have received representations from the Government of Punjab, including those addressed by the Punjab Chief Minister to the Prime Minister about the difficulties experienced by art silk weaving industry in Punjab and urging remedial action.

(c) The Tariff Commission who were asked to inquire into the cost structure of the man-made fibre/yarn industry have made certain interim recommendations to Government on fair prices of rayon yarn. The textile Commissioner has been asked to initiate discussions with the spinners and explore

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the possibilities of their accepting voluntarily the rates proposed by him after taking into account the interim recommendations of the Tariff Commission.

GILGIT-SINKIANG ROAD

309. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gilgit-Sinkiang Road has recently been completed ;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the significance and implications of this road from the point of view of Sino-Pak military strategies ; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Attention is invited to the statement made by the Prime Minister in the House on May 13, 1968, regarding the construction of a road linking Gilgit with Sinkiang through the Mintaka Pass. Chinese are now assisting Pakistan in building a road from Mor Khun in northern Kashmir to the Khunjerab Pass on the Kashmir-Sinkiang border. Government are aware of the military implications of this road especially in the context of Sino-Pakistani collusion. Government have taken due note of these aspects; protests have also been lodged with China and Pakistan.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE IN H.A.L.

310. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any industrial dispute was raised in the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., by the employees' unions in 1969?

(b) whether any settlement has been arrived at in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof