

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

(b) In its issue dated April 27, the "Sunday Telegraph" has itself accepted the assurance of ex-President Ayub Khan of Pakistan that no such secret protocol was signed.

#### Am TO NEPAL

844. SHRI R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the amount of aid or loans given to Nepal by the Government of India during the last three years and the purposes for which these were given?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): Aid given to Nepal by the Government of India during the last three financial years, 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69, amounted to a sum of Rs. 30.11 crores. Out of this amount, Rs. 29.42 crores were grant-in-aid for development projects and a sum of Rs. 69.70 lakhs were loans for establishment of industrial enterprises.

The aid given by India was utilised for various development programmes in the field of road and air communication, irrigation and power, tele-communication, water supply, horticulture, rural reconstruction, education, health, forestry, geological and mineral surveys and establishment of industrial enterprises.

#### IMPORT OF POLYSTER FIBRE

845. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the import of Polyester fibre from abroad the place of long-staple cotton;

(b) the landed cost of Polyester fibre as compared to that of Egyptian cotton: and

(c) what is the final decision of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) to (c)

The question of importing some quantities of polyester fibre for the cotton textile industry has been considered; but it has been decided not to do so. However, on the basis of present information, the landed cost of polyester fibre will be about Rs. 6.50 per kg; and that U.A.R. cotton ranges from about Rs. 7.25 to Rs. 12.80 per kg.

846. [Transferred to the 12/// May, 1969.]

#### RE-EMPLOYMENT OF LT. COLONELS

847. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI G. R. PATIL:

SHRI S. B. BOBDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

'a I whether it is a fact that officers of the substantive rank of Lt. Colonel are asked to go one step down in the rank of Major in case they are reemployed in service: and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a)

No, Madam. An Officer who retires with the substantive rank of Lt. Col. retains that rank if he is re-employed in an appointment tenable in the rank of Lt. Col. Only if no appointment tenable in the rank of Lt. Col. is vacant and he is re-employed with his consent in an available vacancy of Major, he comes down to the rank of Major but the last pay drawn at the time of his retirement is protected.

(b) This is because the rank of a post is determined normally with reference to the duties and responsibilities attached to it.