

(c) the amount that has fallen due up to 31st March, 1968; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Rs. 76.53 crores.

(b) to (d) Repayment of loans by the Commission to Government will require withdrawal of the loans given by the Commission to the State Boards, cooperative societies and registered institutions. This will affect the production programme of the Commission as the State Boards, cooperative societies and registered institutions do not have any working capital. Pending an assessment by the Commission and Government of the quantum of working fund required by the Commission, the loans falling due for repayment are being renewed to serve as the working fund. On this basis loans amounting to Rs. 54.28 crores which had fallen due for repayment on various dates up to the 31st March, 1968, were renewed for further period of five years.

Apart from the above, the Commission repaid in 1967-68 a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs out of a special loan of Rs. 1 crore which fell due for repayment during that year. The Commission's request for extending the period of repayment of the remaining sum of Rs. 50 lakhs by one year up to the end of the current financial year is under consideration of Government.

UNSOLD STOCKS OF KHADI AND YARN

668. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of Khadi and Khadi yarn with the Khadi Commission which was lying with the various State Boards up to 31st March, 1968; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the stock of both Khadi and yarn ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

MANUFACTURE OF SHOES AND LEATHER GARMENTS WITH RUSSIAN COLLABORATION

669. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a collaboration agreement has been finalised between the Government of India and the Government of U. S. S. R. for the manufacture of shoes and leather garments ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) Schemes of collaboration with U. S. S. R. for manufacture of shoes and leather garments are still under consideration. No agreement has been signed.

WANCHOO COMMITTEE ON RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

670. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: SHRI B. K. MAHANTI ;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Wanchoo Committee which was appointed to probe into the causes of Railway accidents has completed its work and submitted its report ; and

(b) if not, by what time the Committee's work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Not yet.

(b) It will take a few months before the Committee submit their report. No definite date can be indicated at present in view of the complexity and volume of work involved.