

CLOSED TEXTILE MILLS IN MADRAS

29. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 13 in the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 1968 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two more textile mills have since closed down in the Madras State;

(b) if so, what are the suggestions made by Government of Madras for re-opening of the mills; and

(c) whether Government of India have agreed to assist the Government of Madras in providing employment to 21,000 workers?

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

(b) The Government of Madras had suggested appointment of Investigation Committees under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, to look into the affairs of the 20 closed mills. Investigation Committees have been accordingly appointed under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act.

(c) No, Sir.

INDO-CYLON COLLABORATION IN TEA MARKETING

30. SHRI A. D. MANI :

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE:

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Ceylon have agreed to collaborate in the marketing of tea; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Having recognised the need for active collaboration in the field of promoting sales of blended and packaged teas, India and Ceylon have agreed to set up a Working Group, consisting of representatives of the two countries, to draft the constitution and define precisely the objectives, functions,

financial and administrative structure and scope of the operations of a Joint Consortium for the marketing of blended and packaged teas in selected markets.

PRODUCTION CUT BY JUTE MILLS

31. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the member mills of the Indian Jute Mills Association have resorted to or propose to have a voluntary cut in production;

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

(c) what effect it is likely to have on the jute market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Some mills may have probably curtailed production in June, 1968 in accordance with raw jute stocks available with them. The total production of the mills which are members of the Indian Jute Mills' Association was 92,000 tonnes in June, 1968 compared to 99,500 tonnes in May, 1968. The mills worked 200 hours in June, 1968 compared to 216 hours in May, 1968.

(c) There has been no adverse effect so far and the position is under constant watch.

LOSS IN PUBLIC SECTOR STEEL PLANTS

32. SHRI ABID ALI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the loss incurred by the various public sector Steel plants in the country during last year; and

(b) what was the value of the stocks accumulated in each plant during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) The annual accounts of public sector steel plants under Hindustan Steel Limited for the year 1967-68 have not yet been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company.

(b) The value of finished and semi-finished products at the end of the year 1967-68 with Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur

Steel Plants was of the order of Rs. 27·8 crores, Rs. 13·3 crores and Rs. 12·8 crores respectively. This includes stocks of the value of Rs. 7 to 8 crores at various ports awaiting shipments and of semis of the value of Rs. 11 crores, a part of which would be processed further into finished products during the current year.

MODERNISATION OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY

33. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme for modernisation of the textile industry has been formulated by Government;

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

(c) what is the estimated cost of the programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SALE OF RAILWAY WAGONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

34. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries from which India has received offers for purchase of railway wagons;

(b) the number of wagons for which contract has been signed by each country so far;

(c) what is the price of each wagon and the total amount of the contract so far signed; and

(d) whether the Government of U. S. S. R. had offered to enter into a long term contract for purchase of Railway wagons from India and if so, what are the reasons for the delay in concluding the contract?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Burma, Ceylon, Hungary, Kenya, Poland, South Korea, Uruguay, U. S. S. R. and East Africa.

	Wagons
(b) Kenya	247
Hungary	500
South Korea	1,050
Ceylon	40
Burma	14

(c) Export sales of wagons are made through ordinary trade channels. Price of wagons varies from order to order because of variations in specifications of wagons required by consumers.

(d) A protocol in this behalf has been entered into by the S. T. C. with U. S. S. R. The S. T. C. expects to make its commercial offer shortly.

SURVEY OF IRON ORE DEPOSITS IN KOZHIKODE DISTRICT, (KERALA)

35. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of the iron ore deposits in the Kozhikode District in Kerala has been made by Government;

(b) if so, what is the estimate of the probable quantity of iron ore deposits in the area; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to exploit the deposits?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Detailed investigation of the deposits around Kozhikode township as at East and West Hills, Nanminda-Naduvallur, Eliyetti Malai and Cherupa Hill have been carried out by the Geological Survey of India. The ore is mainly low grade containing 30 to 35 per cent iron but can be upgraded to 60 to 65 per cent iron. The total anticipated reserves of iron ores from the above 4 deposits are expected to be of the order of 325 million tonnes. There are also small reserves of 9 million tonnes of high grade oxidised ores on the top of the hills containing up to 60 per cent iron.

A programme of detailed investigation by drilling to assess the reserve and grade of the iron ore has been taken up at Cherupa and the investigation is in progress.

(c) The question of exploitation of the deposits is engaging the attention of the State Government.