

(c) There is no ban on the import of extile machinery not indigenously available and, subject to foreign exchange being available, import licences are issued to import such machinery on the basis of the merits of each case.

THREAT TO JUTE INDUSTRY BY SYNTHETIC FIBRE

604. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of Indian Jute Mills Association has reported to the Government of India about the recent marketing of a synthetic fibre by the Imperial Chemical Industries, thereby threatening the future of jute industry; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir. Various manufacturers have however introduced synthetic substitutes in overseas markets which sell in competition with jute goods.

(b) The industry is being given assistance in conducting research for development and diversification of products. At the same time steps are being taken to improve the yield both in terms of quality and quantity and also improving the manufacturing efficiency of the industry. On a review, export duties on certain varieties of jute goods have been reduced with effect from February 7, 1968.

605. [Transferred to the 12 March 1968.]

EXCHANGE OF INDIAN COAL WITH SURPLUS COMMODITY IN PAKISTAN.

606. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to offer Indian coal to Pakistan in exchange of any surplus commodity in Pakistan that we might need; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

EXPORTS BY ANDHRA STEEL CORPORATION

607. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of products exported by Andhra Steel Corporation Ltd., Visakhapatnam in the years 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68; and

(b) the amount of subsidy paid to the company during the years 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68 separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) and (b) The total quantities of steel products exported by the firm and the amount of subsidy paid to it during 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68 are as under:—

	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68 upto 24-2-68	Total
Exports in metric tonnes	504	6,423	12,729	19,656
Subsidy paid in lakhs of rupees	0.48	10.17	18.35	29.00