

**RISE IN DEMAND OF HUMAN HAIR**

601. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand of human hair from India has increased considerably in the foreign countries; and

(b) if so, whether this has happened because of devaluation of the rupee?

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

(b) There had been a rising trend in the exports of human hair even before devaluation.

**PERFORMANCE OF PRIORITY INDUSTRIES**

602. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the performance of priority industries;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of surplus for exports produced by them; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) A statement of actual exports of priority industries both prior to and after devaluation is annexed. [See Appendix LXII, Annexure No. 52.]

(b) As the requirements of maintenance imports of raw materials, components, consumable supplies, etc. of priority industries in some of which there is substantial idle capacity are now liberally met, it is possible for surpluses to be generated for export. The Government have been holding discussions with most of these industries with a view to mobilise these surpluses for export.

(c) The statement under part (a) of the Question may be referred to.

**TEXTILE MILLS IN COIMBATORE**

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

(a) whether he has given any assurance to the Chief Minister of Madras to the effect that the Centre might persuade some financial assistance to reopen two of the three textile mills that have closed down in Coimbatore district; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken with regard to the implementation of this assurance?

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

(b) The Chief Minister of Madras discussed with me on the 30th September, 1967 the question of re-opening of the closed mills in Madras. He was assured that the Central Government would consider the matter as sympathetically as was possible on the merits of each case. In pursuance of this assurance, an Officers Group was appointed. This Group is already examining the cases of two mills, namely, Sri Ranga Vilas Ginning, Spinning & Weaving Mills Limited and the Cambodia Mills Ltd. Further action will be taken on receipt of the report of the Officers' Group.

**P.M.'s RELIEF FUND FOR ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIAL UNITS**

604. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Madras has suggested to the Government of India that the Prime Minister's Relief Fund should be utilised to help the rehabilitation of sick industrial units; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**RAILWAY WAGON ASKED FOR BY GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS**

605. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras recently asked the Ministry of Railways for more wagons for the movement of paddy within the State and for