

(c) the total quantity of yarn produced during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STEPS TO ENCOURAGE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN MADHYA PRADESH

503. SHRI K. C. BAGHEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been formulated by Government of India for encouraging cottage industries in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1967-68;

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

(c) the amount that is likely to be spent on these schemes during this period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ASSISTANCE TO MADHYA PRADESH TO DEVELOP SERICULTURE

504. SHRI K. C. BAGHEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance given by the Government of India to Government of Madhya Pradesh for the development of sericulture during 1965-66 and 1966-67; and

(b) the amount so far utilised by Madhya Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) 1965-66—Rs. 2.91 lakhs; 1966-67—Rs. 2.20 lakhs

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

MADHYA PRADESH EXPORT PROMOTION CORPORATION

505. SHRI K. C. BAGHEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government of India to establish a Madhya Pradesh Export Promotion Corporation on the lines of the one in Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The establishment of an Export Promotion Corporation in the State is the concern of the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

EARNING OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY NEW IMPORT POLICY

506. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange estimated to be earned by the industries in the public and private sectors with the help of the import licences sanctioned for them; and

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange estimated to be earned by Government as a result of the new production oriented import policy announced recently?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) It is not possible to indicate the amount of foreign exchange estimated to be earned by industries in public and private sectors as a result of the import licences issued to them. The export performance of industries will depend on several factors and in many

cases, there will be a time lag between increased production and larger exports. It is, however, expected that as a result of the liberal policy followed in the issue of licences for raw materials, components and spares, the requirements of the producing units in priority industries will be met adequately, enabling optimum utilisation of installed capacity. The liberalisation of imports will help in better programming of production, more competition among producers, and a larger exportable surplus in some cases. A production oriented import policy will, therefore, help in enlarging the exports of industrial products.

SEMINAR ON INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

507. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a seminar on 'Indian Textile Industry' was organised recently by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade;

(b) if so, what recommendations have been made by them;

(c) whether a stress was made on the modernisation and rehabilitation of the Textile Industry in the seminar; and

(d) what is the Government's reaction to the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendations are under consideration.

STATEMENT

The need for urgent and effective measures for modernisation and rehabilitation of the cotton textile industry was emphasised at the Seminar. A number of recommendations for expansion of cotton production, modernisation of the machines, strengthening the internal marketing opera-

tions and expansion of exports were also made. The main suggestions made are as under: —

- (i) A large part of the machinery of the textile industry is old, outmoded and obsolete. Therefore, urgent measures may be taken by the industry and the Government for speeding up the process of modernisation and rehabilitation. Government on its part should provide the industry with necessary finances for undertaking this work.
- (2) The Textile Corporation which is proposed to be set up by the Government for running the sick mills should be charged with the responsibility of giving loans at lower rate of interest. Sufficient funds should be placed at its disposals for the purpose.
- (3) In the context of salvaging, of old and sick mills, Government should permit scrapping of the obsolete and old mills, because they would only be a drag on the economy.
- (4) Government should give liberal licences for the import of such machines as are not indigenously manufactured as well as those machines the latest designs of which are not yet being manufactured in the country.
- (5) In the interest of keeping production costs under check, fresh recruitment should be halted and the vacancies occurring due to retirement or natural causes should not be filled, thereby giving effect to rationalisation without involving retrenchment.
- (6) For avoiding the diversion of acreage from cotton to other competing commodities, cotton production should be made more remunerative and attractive to the farmers. Necessary steps should be taken for the improvement of the yield per acre by providing fertilisers, plant pro-