

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY): (a) and (b). In the Government Resolution dated the 19th July, 1967 on the Report of the Committee of Enquiry on Durgapur Steel Plant, the desirability of studies by High Level Expert Commissions for the purposes of assessing the performance and productivity of the various Units in HSL has been accepted. There is, however, no proposal at present to appoint such a Commission in the immediate future.

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN IJMA ON  
CRISIS IN JUTE INDUSTRY

1028. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement issued by the Chairman of Indian Jute Mills Association that unless immediate corrective steps are taken the jute industry in the country will have to resort to closure;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some jute mills have already closed down;

(c) whether Government have investigated into the causes of the crisis that the industry is facing; and

(d) what remedial steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) (c) and (d) Presumably the reference is to the Resolution passed by the General Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association on the 24th July, 1967 at which various measures were suggested for restoring the health of the industry. Attention is invited to the Statement made in the House on the 10th August, 1967.

(b) Only 2 jute mills have closed down since April, 1967.

NON SUPPLY OF GOODS BY SILK AND  
RAYON MANUFACTURES TO S.T.C.

1029. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Silk and Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council have asked all its members not to offer their goods to S.T.C for export;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee of Administration of the Silk & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council did pass such a resolution. However, they have since withdrawn this resolution.

(b) It was stated that this had been done to high-light their difficulties.

(c) Government have had detailed discussions with representatives of the Silk and Rayon Export Promotion Council and representatives of other associations. As a result of these discussions, the trade and industry have been asked to work with the State Trading Corporation as its business associates in an effort to promote the export of all types of rayon and synthetic fabrics. Procedural details regarding the role of business associates, of the Export Promotion Council and of Rayex (a subsidiary of the Export Promotion Council) are being worked out.

TRADE DELEGATION FROM AFGHANISTAN

1030. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Afghan trade delegation recently visited India;

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held; and