

winding up cases are pending in the High Court, West Bengal and the Committee felt that the law may take its own course. The Government of West Bengal are considering whether to take over the mill or not. Either the State Government would take over or the liquidation proceeding would be allowed to take its course.

(iv) *Howrah Cotton Mills, Howrah.*—This mill closed down as a sequel to an injunction Order issued by the Calcutta High Court. The Receiver appointed by the Court had taken possession of the property of the mills. In view of the 'junk' condition of the machinery, it has been decided to scrap this mill. Necessary action has been taken in this regard in consultation with the Company Law Board and the Department of Legal Affairs.

(v) *Bankura Mills, Bankura.*—This is a very small uneconomic unit remaining closed for the last 4 years consequent to continuous losses. The Government of West Bengal were advised to take over this unit and expand it to an economic size of 12,000 spindles as a Government unit to be worked after increasing the capacity of the unit to this economic limit for which the Central Government would immediately issue the necessary licence. Necessary financial loans for this expansion to economic size would be available on application by the West Bengal Government to the Industrial Finance Corporation of India

5. It will be seen from the above facts that the total number of workers affected by the closure of the 5 mills mentioned above and the partial closure of the sixth unit is 4022. The sixth unit which is working full capacity on the spinning side and has closed the 3rd shift in the Weaving Section.

6. The Textile Commissioner has reported that no closure of cotton textile mills has been reported from West Bengal during the year 1966.

I.D.A. LOAN FOR RAILWAYS

*406 SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 68 million dollar loan to India announced by the International

Development Agency to assist a Railway development programme is interest free;

(b) if so, when is the loan to be discharged and on what terms; and

(c) whether Railways are free to utilise the loan according to its own programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH) : (a) The credit equivalent of U.S. dollars 68 million granted by the International Development Association bears no interest but only a service charge of $\frac{3}{4}$ of one per cent per annum.

(b) The credit is repayable in semi-annual instalments over a period of 50 years—the repayment commencing on August 15, 1976 (i.e. after about 10 years) and ending February 15, 2016—each instalment up to and including the instalment payable on February 15, 1986 to be one half of one per cent ($\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent) of the principal amount and each instalment thereafter to be one and one half per cent ($1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent) of the principal amount.

(c) The availability of the credit is flexible and it can be utilised to cover the foreign exchange payments in respect of a variety of items included in a mutually agreed 'List of goods' which has been drawn up with reference to the specific needs of the Railway programme.

RE-VALUATION OF HOSIERY GOODS FOR EXPORTS, CONSEQUENT TO DEVALUATION OF RUPEE

*407. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters of hosiery goods have decided not to export their goods unless their prices were re-valued on account of devaluation of Indian rupee;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from All India Knit Ware Exporters Association and Hosiery Manufacturers' Export Organisation in this connection;

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(d) whether Government have taken up the question of re-valuing the hosiery goods with foreign buyers?