

SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC IN DIBRUGARH IN ASSAM

342. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 101 in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th February, 1963 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 96 persons contracted small-pox in the Dibrugarh sub-division in Assam during the period from November, 1962 to January, 1963 out of whom 52 died.

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the same period in 1961-62 small-pox caused death to many more people in that sub-division; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to check this disease which affects that sub-division every year?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) to (c) The requisite information has been called for from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

PLANT FOR MANUFACTURE OF CLOTH FOR EXPORT TO U.S.A.

343. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently issued a licence in private sector for manufacture of cloth for export to United States of America;

(b) if so, where such plant will be set up; and

(c) whether Government have given any financial assistance for installing this plant and if so, what is the amount of the assistance

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) No such licence has been issued recently. However, a licence had been issued earlier in May, 1981 for the establish-

ment of a Textile Mill in Kanpur on condition that cloth produced by the unit shall be exported to the U.S.A. No financial assistance has been given by the Government for this unit.

COMMONWEALTH TRADE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

344. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion from the British Government regarding the desirability of holding a Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Conference to discuss the failure of the British Government to join the European Common Market; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of our Government to that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Every year, a meeting of the Commonwealth Economic Consultative Council is held in London to discuss problems of mutual interest to Commonwealth countries. This year, in view of the discussions scheduled to be held in May in Geneva by the Ministers from all GATT Countries and the -breakdown of the negotiations in Brussels between the U.K. and the E.E.C., it has been suggested that the Commonwealth meeting should be at the Trade Ministers' level.

(b) The Government of India have welcomed the proposal.

POSTS OF LIBRARY ATTENDANTS RESERVED FOR PERSONS BELONGING TO SCHEDULED CASTES

345. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years the Medical Library of the Directorate General of Health Services has been functioning;