

COIR INDUSTRY IN KERALA

435. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to develop the coir industry in Kerala during the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of workers employed by the industry at the beginning of the Second Plan; and

(c) the number of workers employed at present?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) The development of coir industry is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government, however, give financial assistance to the State Governments for implementation of various schemes for development of Coir Industry. An allocation of Rs. 175 lakhs has been made for Kerala State for development of Coir Industry during the Third Five Year Plan.

(b) Approximately 4 lakh workers.

(c) Approximately 5 lakh workers.

ACCUMULATION OF COTTON PIECE-GOODS WITH MILLS

436. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial accumulation of cotton piece-goods with the mills during the months of November and December last; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the accumulation?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) There has been an accumulation of stocks but it was not substantial.

(b) The accumulation was mainly due to the disturbed border situation resulting in general recession and consequent fall in commodity prices and fall in sales in particularly the eastern States.

PRECISION INSTRUMENTS FACTORY IN KERALA

437. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the establishment of the precision instrument factory in Kerala;

(b) the amount so far spent in this connection; and

(c) when the factory is expected to go into production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) to (c) The site for the project at Puthussery near Palghat has been selected and the Government of Kerala have informed that they are now taking steps to acquire the required land for the project and the township. The nomenclature of instruments to be manufactured in the plant has been tentatively finalised in consultation with the Soviet experts. The draft memorandum of instructions for the preparation of the detailed project report has been received and is under consideration.

It is not possible to indicate at this stage precisely the amount spent so far for this project.

The time schedule for the implementation of the project will be worked out after the detailed project report is received and examined.