

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Central Government decided to start 15 Production Centres during 1957-58 throughout the country for providing employment to educated unemployed. Out of the 15 Centres, one Centre was to be located in the Industrial Estate set up at Gauhati in Assam. That Centre was to take up cycle assembly and manufacture of cycle parts.

The cost of the machinery to be imported from abroad for all these 15 Production Centres was estimated at Rs. 62-25 lakhs. In view of the acute foreign exchange shortage, it was decided that the question of starting these Production Centres should be deferred.

SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: May I know whether the party who has got the cycle manufacturing licence in Assam has started his factory? If the party has started his factory, may I know whether Government has any information about the production report?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir, the licence has been granted to a party in Gauhati, and production will start in another six months. All the preparations are being made by the party.

CO-OPERATIVE JUTE MILL IN ASSAM

*24. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the actual position regarding the setting up of a co-operative jute mill in Assam;

(b) whether Government have received its Project Report, and where this mill will be located;

(c) whether licence has been given to the proposed jute mill;

(d) what will be the position of other licence holders who got licence? to start jute mills long ago; and

(e) what are the reasons for the old licence-holders not starting the jute mills?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) A Cooperative Society has been registered and the State Government have recommended the grant of a licence to the Co-operative.

(b) Project Report dealing with location of the proposed mill has been prepared. The location recommended by the State Government is Silghat area in Nowgong District.

(c) No, Sir. The application is under consideration.

(d) and (e) The licence granted to a private party in 1954 has been revoked as no effective steps were taken by him presumably owing to his inability to raise adequate capital.

DR. R. B. GOUR: In answer to Starred Question No. 8 the hon. Minister had said that we did not have enough raw jute to meet the existing capacity of the jute mills. May I know how this new jute mill would be advisable in view of the nonavailability of raw jute?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: This project has been approved in 1954 and it is in an area where jute is grown.

LOANS AND GRANTS GIVEN TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN ASSAM

*25. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount advanced to the displaced persons from East Pakistan in Assam up to the 31st March, 1960 by way of (i) loans for industry, and (ii) grants;