

is wastage of cement while handling and whether the paper bags will ensure that there is no wastage.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is not so. As a matter of fact the present standard specified for the jute bags in India is of an international character and if the hon. Member wants to know, I can say that we recently imported some cement in paper bags and while landing and bringing them down there was a lot of tearing and wearing and much more loss.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the present jute bags that are used for cement are of poorer quality than three four years back?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: No, Sir.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: The hon. Minister said that these bags were made of waste paper. May I know from where this waste paper is brought and is it not a strain on transport to take up so much paper to the mills?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: No, Sir. It is all local collections.

*548 and *549. [*The questioner (Shrimati Pushpalata Das) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 3715-16 infra.*]

RECLAMATION OF THE MATTANCHERRY FORESHORE SCHEME IN KERALA

*550. SHRI A. V. KUNHAMBUR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted to the Government of India any scheme for reclamation of the Mattancherry Foreshore; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme aims at reclamation of an area of 60 acres along the fore-

shore of Mattancherry town. It provides for the construction of a retaining wall, the extension of the existing jetties, the construction of 1 permanent jetties, a road parallel to the seashore, a bridge over Rameswaram canal and the salvage of a sunken ship. The cost is estimated at Rs. 28 lakhs.

SHRI A. V. KUNHAMBUR: May I know when the Government will sanction the scheme?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: For this scheme the resources will have to be found from within the ceiling of the State Plan. We had in fact referred this scheme to the Ministry of Transport to see whether it could be accommodated in the Plan of the Cochin Port but they have said that it is not possible.

SHRI A. V. KUNHAMBUR: Are the Government aware that there is acute shortage of building space at Mattancherry?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: I take this information from the hon. Member.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: In view of the fact that the scheme submitted by the Kerala Government is financially very attractive, will the Government consider the desirability of giving them a loan?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: After all, it is a matter of over-all resources and whether that would be possible, I cannot say. But we have taken the position that the resources for this will have to be found from within the State Plan.

EAST GERMANY'S OFFER TO SUPPLY INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

*551. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that East Germany has offered to supply to India industrial plants and certain other goods without indenting upon the latter's foreign exchange reserves but by purchasing Indian goods to the same extent;