

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 PARNAND: 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 seven 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 NAIR:** 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;

(b) if so, how Government propose to make use of the offer;

(c) what is the existing position in regard to India's balance of trade with East Germany; and

(d) in what way this offer is likely to promote India's trade interest with East Germany?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Already a contract has been signed by the State Trading Corporation with Dia Maschinen Export, Berlin for the import of textile machinery to the extent of Rs. 1.2 crores. Other deals on the same line are under negotiation.

(c) Our exports during 1956-57 to the German Democratic Republic amounted to Rs. 46 lakhs against our imports amounting to Rs. 47.24 lakhs during the same period.

(d) Implementation of the offer will assist in the importation of essential plant and machinery required by India and increase exports of Indian goods to that country, thereby diversifying our markets.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what are the goods that are likely to be exported to East Germany?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Manganese ore, spices, hydrogenated oil, tea, coffee, tobacco, tobacco manufactures, mica, shellac, goat and sheep skin, raw cotton, raw hemp, coir, coir manufactures, and so on.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether we are exporting to East Germany any finished products of our country?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Not in any sizeable quantity.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know whether, besides textile machinery, East Germany can supply us machinery for cement and paper?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Of course it can, but whether we are capable of buying or not is another question.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know whether the prices quoted by them are competitive with other countries? I am asking this question because our import and export trade with East Germany is Rs. 46 lakhs only, and we would like to do business with them to the extent of Rs. 2 or 3 crores. I am asking whether they are competitive.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: We have not asked for prices yet.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या गवर्नमेंट की यह पालिसी है कि टैक्सटाइल मिल्स को भारतवर्ष में और खोलने की जरूरत नहीं है ?

श्री एन० कानूनगो : यह तो पालिसी नहीं है । अभी बन्द है क्योंकि जरूरत नहीं है ।

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know whether efforts have been made to find out these prices and enter into negotiations with East Germany? A small reply in the negative is not satisfactory.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: When that question arises, it will be enquired into.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Is it not a fact that there is dumping of textile goods in this country, and as a result of that textile mills are now being closed down, and therefore the extra plant is not required? How is the Government negotiating to have import of more textile machinery?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: There is no dumping that I know of.

*552. [The questioner (Shri B. V. MAMA) WARERKAR was absent. For answer, vide col. 3716 infra.]