

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the newspapers could not take delivery of the allotted newsprint quota for the year 1984-85 from the State Trading Corporation due to the failure of State Trading Corporation to import enough quantity of newsprint for want of foreign exchange ;

(b) if so, who is the appropriate authority for release of foreign exchange for this purpose ;

(c) the reasons for not releasing enough foreign exchange ; and

(d) what Government have done in the case of such newspapers which could not take delivery of newsprint quota from the State Trading Corporation for this reason ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A few newspapers could not be serviced imported newsprint to the extent of the quota allotted to them by the State Trading Corporation of India on account of constraints on foreign exchange resources. The foreign exchange is released by the Ministry of Finance.

(d) Servicing of the unserviced newsprint quota to such newspapers would depend on availability of foreign exchange.

Assistance to Tripura by North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation.

4909. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what type of financial, technical and other assistance have been provided by the North Eastern Handicraft and Handlooms Development Corporation to Tripura since 1982 to date ; and

(b) what are its future programmes to develop the skill and potentials on handicrafts and handlooms in the North Eastern Regions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Central Assistance for Starting Phulwari Cotton Mills in Bihar.

4910. SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any help has been solicited by the Government of Bihar to start Phulwari Cotton Mills ; and

(b) if so, the progress in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of Bihar had requested the Central Government to consider the possibility of take over of the unit by the National Textile Corporation. Government of India do not propose to take over the unit.

Setting up of Spinning Mills in Madhya Pradesh.

4911. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some spinning mills in the backward districts of Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if so the number of such spinning mills to be set up in those districts ;

(c) whether Government have identified Raigarh district in Madhya Pradesh for location of a new spinning mill ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.