

nationalised commercial banks for the following purposes:

- (a) Suitable cropping system for each region;
- (b) Conservation and collection of wild vegetation; and
- (c) Cold storage facility.

22. Intensive preservice training is required for home science personnel for recruitment in rural development programmes. Home scientists should be included in different policy-making bodies. Home scientists may form action squads for social service.

#### Rise in Cloth Prices

5060. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:  
SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are perturbed over the steep rise in cloth prices despite a fall in cotton prices;
- (b) if so, whether Government had decided to call a meeting of the representatives of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation and the National Textile Corporation;
- (c) if so, what subjects were discussed; and
- (d) the decision arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The wholesale prices of cotton textiles have increased only marginally by 2.9 per cent between February 1978 and February 1979.

(b) and (c). The Minister of Industry has nevertheless discussed the rise in cloth prices with the industry on 16th March 1979. The industry has been asked to devise steps to contain increase in prices of cotton cloth.

#### Policy for Passenger Cars, Overhaul of Industry and Foreign Know-how

5061. SHRI K. S. VEERABHA-  
DRAPPA: Will the Minister of  
PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new policy framework for passenger cars, a total overhaul of the industry and import of foreign know-how has been recommended by the high power group set up by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along-with the necessity in view of its requirement in this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) and (b). No high-power group has been set up to consider the passenger car industry as such. The Working Group on Transport, Earth-moving and Agricultural Machinery, set up by the Planning Commission in the context of the finalisation of the Draft Plan 1978—83, has made certain recommendations in respect of the manufacture of passenger cars in the country. The Group has suggested that the further development of this industry should be regarded as necessary, in view of the requirements of the taxi trade and industrial organisations as well as for personal transport. It has further argued that the industry has a high employment generation potential, and that the production of automobiles has a multiplier effect on the economy. Proceeding on this basis, the Group has suggested the need for policies to move the industry out of its present state of stagnation. This according to the Group, would involve a total overhaul of the industry including the import of new technology.

The Report of the Working Group has not yet been considered by the Planning Commission.