

(b) If so, whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table together with the details of action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Women Programme Executives in the A.I.R.

161. Kumari M. Vedakumari: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the number of Women Programme Executives in the All India Radio?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): One, at present.

#### Punaloor Paper Mills Ltd.

162. { Shri V. P. Nayar:  
      { Shri Kodiyar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punaloor Paper Mills Ltd., Punaloor, has submitted any plans for increasing the production of paper;

(b) if so, the details of the plans; and

(c) whether Government have sanctioned the proposals of the mills?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Development of Handloom Industry

163. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of funds for the development of the handloom industry during the current financial year has been made from the Handloom Cess Fund;

(b) if so, whether a statement showing such allocation to various States will be laid on the Table of the Sabha; and

(c) the basis on which the allocations have been made?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 30].

(c) This is explained in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the First Annual Report of the All India Handloom Board copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

#### Closure of Textile Mills

164. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
      { Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how many textile mills have so far given notice of closure;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) whether Government have given consideration to the situation created or likely to be created by such closure; and

(d) if so, the steps, if any, that have been taken to remedy the situation?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Seven textile mills issued notice of closure since January 1957 out of which 3 have actually closed down, and two of the mills have already withdrawn notice of closure.

(b) Due to financial stringency and uneconomic working.

(c) and (d). The Government are using their good offices to persuade the mills to withdraw notice of closure as a result of which two mills have already withdrawn notices as mentioned against reply to part (a) of the question. The Government are also considering the question of