

The Government through NIDC have made every effort to rehabilitate the mills by favourably considering their application for loan assistance. The management however had written that they were not interested in obtaining the loan due to their financial position, accumulation of stocks and the condition of the mill. Very recently the excise duty on medium variety of cloth has been reduced by 6 pice which it is hoped would help the mills in clearing their stock. It is, therefore, upto the Management to clear their accumulated stocks, and improve their working.

#### Export of Catechu

55. Shri Rameshwar Tanti: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total exports of Catechu and its bye-products used for Tannery purposes during the year 1957.

(b) the countries to which these were exported; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase their exports?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Deval): (a) 19,543 lbs valued at Rs. 44,442 during January-August, 1957. Figures for later months are not yet available.

(b) Pakistan, Ceylon, Rhodesia, Kenya, Nyasaland, Mozambique and Fiji Islands.

(c) No special steps have been taken to promote exports.

#### Travancore Minerals (Private) Ltd.

56. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the reasons for locating the Head Office of the Travancore Minerals (Private) Limited at Quilon instead of at Chavara, in the factories area?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The Board of Directors of Travancore Minerals (Private) Ltd. decided to locate the head office of the company at Quilon, which is less

than 10 miles from Chavara, after taking into consideration all relevant factors. In taking this decision, they were influenced by such essential considerations as proximity of banking and other commercial houses and availability of accommodation and other facilities.

#### Low Income Group Housing Scheme

57. Shri Nek Ram Negi: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the details of the loans granted under the Low Income Housing Scheme to Mahasu District so far?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Out of a sum of Rs. 5,16,726 so far disbursed to the Himachal Pradesh Administration under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme, a sum of Rs. 2,26,200 has been advanced by the Administration as loan to 79 persons in Mahasu District. A sum of Rs. 58,100 was advanced to 22 applicants in Mahasu District during 1955-56, while a sum of Rs. 1,68,100 was advanced to the remaining 57 applicants during 1956-57. No amount has so far been disbursed during 1957-58.

#### Plastic Goods Manufacturing Factories

58. Shri Heda: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the number of major and small factories that manufacture plastic goods;

(b) their output in 1957 showing the major and small ones separately; and

(c) what are the requirements of the country?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Deval): (a) Major 36

#### Small 30

(b) Goods valued at Rs. 422 lakhs and Rs. 110 lakhs respectively.