

Times of the 15th April, 1971 saying that India's share *vis-a-vis* the world exports trade during 1970 registered a considerable decline ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are fully aware of the decline in India's share in world exports. Several measures have been taken in recent years to promote our exports and secure a larger share in world exports. These include simplification of industrial licensing procedure and liberalisation of imports for exports oriented production units as well as measures designed to strengthen the competitiveness of our export in the international markets. The compound rate of growth of export envisaged in the Fourth Plan is 7 per cent per annum. The broad guidelines for the export effort are set out in the Export Policy Resolution presented to Parliament in July, 1970.

Losses faced by Textile Industry

1062. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to a report in the *Economic Times* of the 9th April, 1971 regarding losses being faced by the Textile industry in the country ; and

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any initiative to help the industry to reduce these losses and if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided that the existing statutory obligation of the mills to produce controlled cloth to the extent of 25% of their production should not be altered. A scheme has recently been evolved in consultation with the industry whereby the industry has undertaken to produce 100 million sq. metres of controlled cloth during 3 months

beginning from 1st June, 1971.

The mills which produce controlled varieties of cloth will be given a subsidy to the extent of so paise per sq. metre from funds which will be collected by the Industry.

Reduction in Charges for Long Distance Calls

1063. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to effect reduction in charges for long distance telephone calls ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): No, Sir.

Export of Cement by I.C.C. to West Asian Countries

1066. SHRI G. V. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Cement and cement factories have found markets in West Asian countries ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the agreements and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned annually ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. ACC, Bombay have won tenders for erecting cement plants in Kuwait and Baghdad. They are also trying to negotiate erection of a cement plant in other Gulf countries. The total exports of cement to West Asian countries during 1969-70 and 1970-71 stood at Rs. 23 lakhs and 1970-71 (April-Nov.) Rs. 28 lakhs respectively.

Indo-G.D.R. Trade Relations

1067. SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of expanding the Indo-G.D.R. trade relations ; and