

(b) Government of West Bengal have set up a High Power Committee to undertake a continuous review of this problem. Consumption of electric power is also being regulated during peak hour. This should ensure steadier and equitable distribution of power.

(c) No assistance is being given by Government in this behalf.

Decline in Export of Pepper

362. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the fall in the export of pepper from 19,800 tonnes in 1969-70 to about 17,000 tonnes in 1970-71; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove the handicaps in the export of pepper ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) In 1969-70, Indonesian crop was very low and the attractive prices and good demand resulted in higher exports than 1970-71, when the country's production dropped and with a lower carry over stocks and increased domestic demand, the exportable surplus was less.

(b) Agriculture Ministry is taking steps to increase the production.

Shipment of PL-480 Cotton

363. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the assurance given by the American Trade Delegation, which recently visited India, regarding the shipment of the balance quantity of P. L.-480 cotton is being implemented by the U. S. authorities; and

(b) whether the U.S.A. has agreed to India's contention of not accepting the res-

ponsibility for payment of carrying charges for the balance quantity of PL-480 cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation has agreed to advise the members of the Shippers Association not to press claims about payment of carrying charges.

Revision of Export Policy for Raw Cotton

364. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for revising the export policy for raw cotton;

(b) whether this revision is likely to affect the export of raw cotton; and

(c) the main features of the revised export policy for raw cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). During the current year, export of raw cotton, mainly Bengal Deshi has been allowed to the extent of two lakh bales. This ceiling represents the average annual exports from India during the past five-six years.

The introduction of quantitative ceiling does not materially affect the export trend but provides for adequate quantity for exports leaving balance for possible greater consumption of these varieties of cotton in the country.

Import Licences for Leather Industry

365. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending licences for the import of machinery for the leather industry;