

(c) whether any other project of this kind in collaboration with some other foreign party/country is in the offing ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) It has been decided to defer the setting up of the plant for the manufacture of fertiliser and chemical equipment with Rumanian assistance for the present.

(b) Due to downward revision of the targets of many of the end-user industries, e.g., chemical, refining and fertiliser, a re-assessment of the equipment required by these industries was made and it was ascertained that the indigenous capacity already existing for the manufacture of equipment required by these industries was sufficient to meet the immediate requirements and, therefore, the setting up of this project could be deferred.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Indo-UAR-Yugoslavia Joint Ventures

7460. **SHRI R. BARUA :**
SHRI M. S. OBEROI :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of the Indo-UAR-Yugoslavia tripartite agreement on the setting up of joint ventures was reviewed recently with the representatives of the two countries ;

(b) whether the said tripartite agreement has become operative ;

(c) whether India has given her preferences for certain joint projects to be set up under the agreement ; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main features are (i) exploration of phosphatic deposits in UAR ; (ii) preparation of a detailed Project Report for the setting up of a unit for the production of Phosphatic fertilisers from Rock

Phosphate ; and (iii) supply of technical know-how and a major portion of the plant and equipment required for Phosphatic fertiliser plant.

Recession in Textile Industry

7461. **SHRI R. BARUA :**
SHRI M. S. OBEROI :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tamilnad Millowners Association, Madurai has recently submitted a Memorandum to Government suggesting certain steps to fight recession in the textile industry ;

(b) if so, what are their main suggestions and whether Government have examined their feasibility ; and

(c) Government's assesment of the impact of current recession in the textile industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Tamilnad Mill-owners' Association, Madurai, has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister, Madras, a copy of which has been endorsed to the Central Government.

The following suggestions have been made in the memorandum :

(i) The Sales Tax on cotton yarn should be suspended for 5 years ;

(ii) Surcharge and consumption tax on electricity should be withdrawn ;

(iii) Adequate financial assistance should be provided to sick units through State financial agencies and commercial banks ;

(iv) The State Government should make a recommendation to the Central Government to abolish excise duty on yarn and coarse and medium cloth ; and

(v) It should be impressed upon the Trade Unions that there is need for reducing the D.A. of workers by 50%, at least in the case of sick and marginal units for 5 years or till they turn the corner, whichever is earlier.

The above suggestion mostly concern the State Government and are under their consideration. In so far as the Central