

(b) No such proposal is under consideration as it was observed during the annual plan discussions held in November, 1969 with the representatives of Government of Madhya Pradesh that the anticipated expenditure on major irrigation projects in 1969-70 would be less than the budget provision.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Central assistance is being given to State Governments as block loans/grants each year for implementation of their annual plans.

Schemes Re-Inland Water Transport for Movement of Defence Requirements in Assam

558. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had, at any time, considered the vital role of Inland Water Transport in the movement of defence requirements in Assam State ;

(b) whether Government drew up a number of water transport schemes, specially for the movement of heavy defence material ;

(c) whether the Government had a particular scheme to launch the Jogigopa (Assam) Ferry Service for the purpose ; and

(d) if so, the progress, if any, made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND

STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (d). The entire requirement of Inland Water Transport for meeting defence needs in the State of Assam is reviewed from time to time and the potential thereof is continuously integrated in the logistic planning. It would not be desirable in public interest to give the details of the schemes drawn up for the defence purposes.

Decline in Production of Cotton Textiles

559. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of cotton textiles has declined during the first half of the current year ;

(b) if so, the production figures and how they compare with the production of the last three years ; and

(c) the reasons for the decline and whether exports have also declined and if so, the steps taken to correct the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) There has been a decrease of about 5 per cent in the production of cotton textiles during the first half of 1969 as compared to the corresponding period of 1968.

(b) The production figures of cotton cloth for first half of 1969 and those of the last three years are as follows :

	Jan.—June of				Percentage increase/ decrease of 1969 figures over 1968
	1966	1967	1968	1969	
Production of cotton cloth in Ml. metres in Mill sector	2069	1957	2195	2083	(-) 5.10

(c) The decline in production is due to closure of some mills during this period and to a certain extent less utilisation of the installed capacity. However, exports of cotton textiles including yarn, ready-made garments etc. during the first half of 1969 were higher than the exports during the corresponding period of 1968.

Report of Official Group on Merger of Weaker Textile Mills with Stronger Mills

560. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the official group set up to