

(c) and (d). The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Protection to Textile Industry

71. SHRI A. N. CHAWAL : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of cotton in the country; and

(b) if so, the specific measures adopted by Government to protect the textile industry which provides large-scale employment and earns from exports ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir, owing to damage to cotton crop availability of domestic cotton during the current cotton year has been adversely affected.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

(i) Import of 10 lakh bales of cotton and 1.50 lakh bales of staple fibre has been allowed so far and further imports are under consideration.

(ii) 100,000 bales of imported cotton have been ear-marked for exporting mills having firm export orders.

(iii) The statutory stock limits have been reduced to 1 month for mills located in Bombay and Ahmedabad and 2½ months for Assam and Orissa and 1½ months in other places. Stock limits for exporting mills is as follows :—

(a) mills exporting 10% or more 2½ months

(b) mills exporting 20% or more 3½ months

(c) mills exporting 25% or more 4½ months

(iv) Forward trading in kapas has been suspended.

(v) The period of non-transferable specific delivery contracts in domestic cotton has been reduced to one month.

(vi) In order to make available the type of cotton which is in-short supply, for the weaker and exporting mills, the staple length limit for imports against the current releases has been reduced from usual 1-1/16" to 1".

(vii) Credit margins have been suitably adjusted for the mills, trade and co-operatives.

Skyjacking of an Indian Airlines Plane by a Member of B.S.F.

72. DR. KARNI SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Airlines plane had been skyjacked from Srinagar to Lahore recently ;

(b) if so, whether the skyjacking operation was masterminded by a member of our Border Security Force whose chief job was to prevent this type of piracy; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to overhaul the entire machinery of our intelligence ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. An information who was being used by the Border Security Force was responsible for the crime.

(c) A high power committee has been appointed to go into the matter and recommend suitable measures, where necessary.