

(ख) यदि हा, तो क्या सरकार का विचार वैज्ञानिक उपाय के रूप में पूर्वी यूरोप तथा समाजवादी देशों से वित्तीय सहायता लेने का है ?

उप-प्रधान मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्री (श्री मोरारजी देसाई) : (क) जी नहीं। संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की सरकार ने ऐसा कोई सकेन नहीं किया है।

(ख) यह सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होता।

Release of Mill Cloth in Cut Pieces

*967 **Shri M. S. Murdi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that large quantities of mill cloth are being released in the form of fents or cut pieces to escape excise duties and they are thus competing with handloom cloth,

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to levy excise duties on fents of mill-made cloth to avoid such competition with handloom cloth, and

(c) if not whether Government propose to issue any direction to the State Governments to levy sales tax on the fents of mill made cloth to help handloom industry?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant) : (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise Fents of cotton fabrics are already subject to Central Excise duty as well as additional excise duty (in lieu of sales tax), though at concessional rates

(c) The question does not arise.

Farakka Barrage

*988. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent statement

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by the Chairman, Calcutta Port Commissioners to the effect that dredging can no longer check the deterioration in the river Hooghly's draft and that unless normal supply to head-water was made available throughout the year, the river would soon cease to be navigable by sea-going vessels, and

(b) if so, whether there is any plan for expediting completion of the Farakka Barrage?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The progress on the Farakka Barrage Project is constantly under review and all steps are being taken for the completion of the Farakka Barrage Project as early as possible

Sulphur of Fertilizer Plants

*989. **Shri D. N. Patodia:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state

(a) whether the supply position of sulphur for fertilizer plants is encouraging,

(b) whether non-availability or reduced availability of nitrogen will affect the factories at Namrup, Visakhapatnam and Alwaye, and

(c) whether the question of utilization of pyrites as an alternative to sulphur is being considered by Government?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta) : (a) The supply position of sulphur for fertilizer factories appears to be improving

(b) It is presumed that the reference is to sulphur. The non-availability or reduced availability of sulphur will affect the production at Namrup, Visakhapatnam and Alwaye.

(c) Yes, Sir.