

(b) These mills are not considered to be economic ones and have been included in the list of mills fit to be scrapped.

(c) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF RAW SILK

*395. SHRI SANDA'NARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the shortage of silk production in the country the State Trading Corporation is importing raw silk to meet the demand in the country;

(b) if so, when such orders were placed for import; and

(c) the quantity of each variety of raw silk which is proposed to be imported during 1970-71 ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :

(a) to (c) Import of raw silk is allowed only by way of replenishment against export of materials containing mulberry silk. Import thus taking place fills, correspondingly, the gap between the demand and the indigenous production of raw silk. Import of raw silk has been canalised through the Central Silk Board from 1st April, 1970 and arrangements are underway to effect imports. The quantum of raw silk to be imported during 1970-71 will depend upon the export performance of mulberry silk goods during the current financial year.

*396. [Transferred to the 20th May, 1970.]

BRITISH PASSPORT-HOLDERS BORN IN INDIA

*397. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Government is unwilling to take the responsibility towards British passport holders of Asian origin from East Africa on the ground of their birth in India; and

(b) if so, what are the reactions of the Government of India in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The British Government

have not officially disclaimed their responsibility towards British passport-holders of Asian origin from East Africa on the ground of their birth in India. However, a very large number of such persons are experiencing difficulties in finding entry into U. K.

(b) Government of India are of the view that it is the obligation of U. K. Government to allow their nationals to enter Britain without any discrimination.

ALL INDIA HANDLOOM BOARD

*398. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for making the All India Handloom Board a Statutory Board; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :

(a) and (b) The Government of India have accepted the recommendation of the Powerloom Enquiry Committee to convert the existing All India Handloom Board into a Statutory Board. Steps are being taken to implement this decision.

*399. [Transferred to the 15th May, 1970]

आण्विक शस्त्र विस्तार निषेध संधि

* 400. श्री राम सहाय : क्या वंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) आण्विक शस्त्र विस्तार निषेध संधि के लागू किये जाने के सम्बन्ध में इस समय क्या स्थिति है ; और

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार की क्या स्थिति है ?

†[NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

*400. SHRI RAM SAHAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present position with regard to the coming into force of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty; and

†[] English translation.

(b) what is the stand of the Government of India in this regard?]

वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) :

(क) नाभिकीय अस्त्रों के विस्तार-प्रसार को रोकने से सम्बद्ध सन्धि 5 मार्च, 1970 से लागू हो गई है।

(ख) सरकार की नीति में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं आया है और यह नीति ससद् में बार-बार विम्नारपूर्वक बताई जा चुकी है। हमने इस सन्धि पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं किए हैं।

†[THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty has come into effect from 5th March, 1970.

(b) There has been no change in the position of the Government which has been repeatedly explained in the Parliament. We have not signed the Treaty.]

BRINGING DOWN OF APOLLO 13

*401. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U. S. Government or the space officials of the United States made any request to India in the matter of the safe bringing down of Apollo 13 in regard to limitation of use to certain frequencies so that contact by the U. S. Space Station with the Astronauts could be efficiently maintained, and

(b) if so, in what ways did India help the United States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instructions were issued to the concerned authorities to avoid the use of certain frequencies and emissions which were to be used by the spacecraft for transmission to earth.

भूटान को संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ की सदस्यता

*402. श्री बी० एन० मंडल : क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राष्ट्रपति की हाल की भूटान यात्रा के दौरान भूटान सरकार ने इस आशय का संकेत दिया था कि वह चाहती है कि भूटान को संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ की सदस्यता दिलाने के मामले में भारत पहल करे ; और

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

†[U. N. MEMBERSHIP FOR BHUTAN

*402. SHRI B. N. MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the President's recent visit to Bhutan the Government of Bhutan had given an indication to the effect that they would like India to take initiative in the matter of securing U. N. membership for their country; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?]

वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) :

(क) और (ख) राष्ट्रपति हाल ही में जब भूटान की यात्रा पर गए थे उस समय भूटान के नरेश ने अपने संवादाता सम्मेलन में भूटान की यह इच्छा व्यक्त की थी कि वह संयुक्त राष्ट्र का सदस्य बनना चाहता है, और कहा था कि इस मामले पर वे विदेश मंत्री के साथ आगे बातचीत करेंगे। इस बारे में 19 दिसम्बर, 1967 को अतारकित प्रश्न संख्या 1321 के उत्तर में इस सदन में सरकार ने जो सूचना दी थी, उसमें कोई परिवर्तन नहीं आया है।

भूटान जब भी संयुक्त राष्ट्र की सदस्यता की जिम्मेदारी उठाने और दायित्वों को वहन करने की अपनी इच्छा प्रकट करेगा, भारत सरकार भूटान को संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ की सदस्यता के लिए प्रवर्तित करने को तैयार है।

†[THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) During the President's recent visit to Bhutan the King of Bhutan at his Press Conference expressed Bhutan's desire to become a member of the U.N. and said that he would discuss the matter further