

(b) the commodities carried on the return journey from Pakistan by these wagons and ships; and

(c) whether the present arrangements have been reviewed in the light of India's own transport and fuel crisis?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Railway wagons, but not coastal ships, are being employed for transporting coal to Pakistan. They, however, fall short of the number required to move the quantity of coal stipulated under the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) These arrangements are reviewed twice a year taking into account all relevant factors including domestic needs.

Prime Minister's visit to Ceylon

*906. { Shri Shree Narayan Das;
Shri Bishwanath Roy:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has agreed to pay a visit to Ceylon; and

(b) if so, whether indications are available that on this occasion the Government of Ceylon would like to discuss the question of persons of Indian origin with him?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of a recent statement to this effect by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister of Ceylon in the House of Representatives in Ceylon.

Handloom Industry

*907. Shri Maheswar Naik: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom industry is still in receipt of subsidies from the Central Government;

(b) if so, the extent of subsidy given during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to make the industry self-supporting?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1959-60	518.58 lakhs.
1960-61	366.32 lakhs
1961-62	350.39 lakhs

(c) Government's object in giving financial assistance to the handloom industry is to strengthen and rehabilitate it. There is no single proposal whereby the industry could be made self-supporting. But the over-all effect of the various schemes now being adopted is to progressively improve its economic condition and competitive capacity which in the long run should help to make the industry stand on its own feet.

Export of Shoes

*908. { Shri D. C. Sharma;
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to increase the production and export of shoes during the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) the success achieved so far; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during 1961-62 by the products of the food-wear industries?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 82]

(c) During 1961-62 (April, '61 to February, '62) Rs. 2.15 crores have been earned in foreign exchange.

Derequisitioning of Houses in Calcutta

*909. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that houses in 'K' site plot at Anwar Shah Road, Tollygunge, Calcutta belonging to small plot holders and middle class people were requisitioned under the special powers granted during the war emergency and still remain with Government;

(b) how many persons' properties are thus affected;

(c) whether it is also a fact that they have been urging for a long time to get back those properties for their use;

(d) the reason for refusing to derequisition them so many years after the war is over; and

(e) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). A large number of plots of land were requisitioned in 1941. Most of the plots were restored to the respective owners after the termination of the war and at present only 49 plots owned by 31 persons are held under requisition.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). The property could not be derequisitioned as it was unauthorisedly occupied by the displaced persons from East Pakistan and continued to be encroached upon. The question of eviction of those persons, as well as the release of the property to the owners is still under consideration.

Catering in Constitution House and Western Court

*910. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food supplied in Constitution House and Western Court is far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, whether several complaints have been lodged by the residents of these places; and

(c) since how long the contractor has held this contract?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):

(a) and (b). No, Sir. The complaints are of a minor nature.

(c) Since 1952 in the case of the Constitution House and 1956 in the case of the Western Court. The contracts have been extended from time to time on the recommendations of the Joint Committee of Chairmen of House Committees of both the Houses of Parliament.

Withdrawal from Provident Fund

*911. { **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Dr. U. Mishra:
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether facilities for industrial workers to take loans from their Provident Fund accounts in cases of illness have recently been withdrawn; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes.

(b) The reasons are—

(i) The frequent abuse of the facility by worker-members; and

(ii) the increasing coverage of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, benefiting the members of the family also.