

exchange basis. How is the price line for the cotton going to be maintained in this country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Hon. Members are aware that there is a link between the scheme of export promotion and the import of certain varieties which do not directly contribute to export promotion. Therefore, the prices are interlinked at that level.

Shri Iqbal Singh: At what price are we purchasing from foreign markets and how do those prices compare with the Indian prices?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I will not be able to take up contractwise; neither is it desirable to do so. But generally the internal prices today are slightly higher than the imported prices.

Shri Daji: Is it a fact that this year's production is below last year's and the year before and if so has the Government ascertained the cause of low production of Indian cotton and what steps are taken to improve the production?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Most of the reasons are monsoonic. There were some floods in certain parts of the country and in some other parts, there were drought conditions. But we are not going to rely on nature alone in the long run. We are taking every step of the economic type such as stock piling and buffer stocks. Agricultural programmes and measures are also there to increase internal production. We are also encouraging larger production of synthetic fibres and yarn.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inventions Promotion Scheme

*148. **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what important inventions were made under the Inventions Promotion Scheme, in the year 1981;

(b) what was the cost involved on the scheme during the year;

(c) what provision is proposed to be made for these schemes during the ensuing year; and

(d) what are the more important inventions in respect of which studies are at present going on?

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

STATEMENT

(a) and (d). A brochure giving details of the Inventions that were awarded prizes in the year 1961-62 by the Inventions Promotion Board, has been placed in the Library of Parliament. Besides the award of prizes, the Board gave financial assistance during the same period to persons working on 72 inventions. At present, the Board have under consideration 40 proposals for grant of financial assistance in respect of possible inventions.

(b) Rs. 1,45,271.

(c) Rs. 2,00,000.

Indian Labourers for Bhutan

*149. **Shri Nath Pai:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bhutan have requested to the India Government for the loan of the services of 26,000 unskilled Indian labourers;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the demand of the Bhutan Government; and

(c) what would be the terms of contract in this connection?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) No Sir. The Government of Bhutan have not requested the Government of India for the loan of any unskilled labourers.

(b) and (c). These questions do not arise.

Refugees in West Bengal Camps

*150. **Shri Muhammed EHas:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of refugees who are still in different camps of West Bengal after the dole has been stopped;

(b) whether Government have received any suggestion from the Government of West Bengal for these refugees; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government?

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

(a) The last five relief camps in West Bengal were closed during February, 1982 and there are now no displaced persons in relief camps anywhere.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Trade Unions

*151. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procedure followed in verifying the membership of trade unions to determine the pre-condition necessary for recognising them is uniform in factories or establishments owned and managed by the various Ministries of Government; and

(b) if not, what steps have been taken to adopt a uniform procedure in all Ministries?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) The procedure for verification of membership of unions is uniform in all Government departmental undertakings except those under the Ministries of Defence and Railways.

(b) The procedure would become uniform after the Code of Discipline is

accepted by the Ministries of Defence and Railways. While Railways have not yet adopted the Code, the Defence undertakings are considering the question in consultation with the concerned workers' organisations.

Use of Atomic Energy in Agriculture Industry and Medicine

*152. { **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what results, in so far as they are capable of practical application, have flowed from fundamental research relating to the use of atomic energy in agriculture, industry and medicine; and

(b) the names of countries with whom India is collaborating in the matter of such research as well as that on other uses of atomic energy?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Research in the applications of atomic energy to agriculture, industry and medicine is undertaken in various countries and considerable progress has been made. It would not be possible to recapitulate the results of such research within the limits of an answer to a question. Briefly, radioisotopes and radiation are used in agriculture for creating desirable new plant mutation strains and effecting crop improvement by producing more yield per plant, for the control of some insect pests which destroy crops and stored food and for the preservation of food stuff through sterilisation and pasteurisation. In medicine, radioisotopes are used for diagnostic purposes and also for therapy. Radiation sources find beneficial application in radiotherapy. In industry, radioisotopes and sources of radiation are used as tools of scientific investigation, detection, measurement and control. Their application is virtually limitless. They