

(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

are used in wear and lubrication tests, for detecting leaks in complicated systems and storage facilities, for detecting defects in steel and other metal Castings or structures, for tracing the flow in pipelines, streams, chemical processing plants, fluid systems, etc. They also assist in developing higher quality and greater safety specifications for many products.

(b) India has not entered into a specific project of collaboration with any foreign country involving the development of the applications of atomic energy to agriculture, industry and medicine. No such specific agreements are necessary since all results are freely published. India has collaborative agreements with Canada, France, Hungary, Sweden, U.K., U.S.A., and U.S.S.R. In addition it collaborates with many other friendly countries with whom no formal agreement exists.

Tea Processing Machineries

*153. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

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

(a) whether Government is still importing tea processing machineries;

(b) if so, from which countries;

(c) the value of such machinery imported annually; and

(d) what steps are being taken to stop import immediately?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Only tea processing machinery of specialised design and performance not manufactured indigenously is allowed to be imported.

(b) The United Kingdom, West Germany and to some extent from Japan.

(c)

| | Rs. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1959-60 | 14.36 lakhs |
| 1960-61 | 3.12 lakhs |
| 1961-62 | |
| (upto Dec. 1961) 2.25 lakhs | |

(d) Import of tea machinery of the kind manufactured in India has already been stopped.

Organisation of Asian Economic Cooperation

*154. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

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

(a) whether the ECAFE Secretary U. Nyun suggested the setting up of an organisation for Asian Economic Cooperation (OAEC);

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in the matter; and

(c) whether he also suggested the pooling of technical personnel and resources by the ECAFE countries for their economic development?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (c). The suggestions referred to in (a) and (c) were originally made by a Consultative Group of Experts appointed by the Executive Secretary of the ECAFE to investigate practical methods and forms of promoting regional trade cooperation. They were supported by the Executive Secretary.

(b) The concept underlying these suggestions is acceptable to Government in principle. Government are, however, of the view that any such scheme to be successful needs a wide measure of support from the Governments concerned and that the details should be considered at a meeting of Government representatives.