

merce and Industry Ministry to carry conviction with the Planning Commission? May I also know whether Planning Commission is allergic to conviction?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** No, that is not the point.

**Mr. Speaker:** The latter part of the question need not be answered.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Sometimes facts prove or carry greater conviction than arguments. Last year there was a failure of monsoon and crop. That proved that the line taken by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was correct and that may carry conviction.

**Shri P. R. Ramakrishnan:** What is the present production of staple fibre and what are the imports into the country?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** About 79 million lbs. is the production which is much more than the target for the Third Plan. The import is about 150,000 bales.

#### Conference of Indian Envoys of West Asian Regions

**\*1010. Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the Indian Envoys of West Asian regions is scheduled to be held soon; and

(b) whether such conference are called for some specific purpose or for routine discussions?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) Yes. On 30th and 31st May at Beirut.

(b) For the discussion of various problems connected with the region.

**Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** May I know whether any representatives of the External Affairs Ministry from Delhi would be participating in this Conference?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri P. K. Deo:** May I know whether the question of recognition of Israel would be taken up in this Conference?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** No, Sir.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether West Asia will include the independent Kingdom of Kuwait and whether any consideration will be given in that conference to the opening of a Consulate there?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** No, Sir. This Conference will discuss general means by which India's relations with the countries of West Asia can be strengthened and other administrative problems of the Embassies.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Is not the opening of a Consulate the strengthening of our relations? That is why I asked that question. It is one of the methods of strengthening our relations with a country. I want to know whether we are going to strengthen our relations with Kuwait, which is an independent country, by opening a Consulate there.

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** The opening of a Consulate is a decision to be taken by the Government of India here. This Conference will discuss the problems of the countries to which they are accredited.

#### Rajhara and Nandani Mines

**\*1012. Shri Daji:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received about the non-enforcement of the provisions of the Mines Act at Rajhara and Nandani Mines in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, action taken by Government?

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

(b) The complaints were investigated and the management directed to remedy the defects. All the defects except one or two have now been rectified. The management is taking steps to remedy the remaining defects

**Shri Daji:** When was the complaint received, when did the Government receive information about rectification and what complaints have been rectified?

**Shri Hathi:** Complaints were received about different items, for example, about payment of overtime wages, leave wages, drinking water facilities and something about canteens. They are coming in continuously, of course, for one thing or another and are being remedied.

**Shri Daji:** May I know . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** He asked all the three questions together. Now he is not entitled to any further chance.

**Shri Daji:** Just one question, Sir. Is it a fact that some of the important complaints regarding non-enforcement of the Mines Act are still pending causing great labour unrest and trouble there? What steps are Government taking at least to enforce the Mines Act?

**Shri Hathi:** I think two main items still remain to be remedied. One is that the records on leave wages have not been completed by the management and the second is that though they have arranged for drinking water facilities, it is not satisfactory.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether any officer was deputed from the Centre or it was left in the hands of the local officers to investigate into the matter?

**Shri Hathi:** Not only the officer but the hon. Minister of Labour himself went to Ranchi has discussed it there. But, of course, the Chief Mines Inspector is to report about the conditions.

### State Trading Corporation

**1015. Shri P. R. Ramakrishnan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain commodities imported by the State Trading Corporation have been deleted from their list of imports and the established importers have been allowed to import the same;

(b) if so, the names of commodities deleted; and

(c) the reasons for effecting this change?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) No, Sir.

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

**Shri P. R. Ramakrishnan:** Was there any proposal of removing any of these commodities?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There are proposals to remove some items which carry more administrative burden than the foreign exchange or advantage they bring to us.

### Trade with Burma

**\*1019. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is driving Indian goods out of Burmese markets;

(b) if so, in respect of what items the trade has been going down; and

(c) what are the figures showing export trade to Burma for each of the last four quarters?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.