

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether Bharat Electronics have also started manufacturing transistor sets? If so, are they doing so in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?

Shri Kanungo: No. With Bharat Electronics, there is no such proposal.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: When will we be in a position to manufacture complete transistor sets?

Shri Kanungo: The manufacture of basic materials will take a long time.

Import of Cotton

*236. } **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
 } **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**
 } **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
 } **Shri A. S. Saigal:**

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

(a) whether Government are keen to build up a reserve of unspecified quantity of cotton to be carried forward for the next year;

(b) if so, whether Government have already initiated talks with the U.S. Government to explore the possibility of obtaining cotton under PL 480 or in exchange for Indian manganese ore; and

(c) what is the position at present?

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

Owing to the poor crop of the current season (1st September, 1961—31st August, 1962, the carry-over stocks of cotton at the end of the season are likely to be substantially lower than the stocks at the beginning of the season. In order to build up the stocks to the required level

and also to augment supplies during the current season, the Government have already arranged the import of about 6.5 lakh bales of foreign cotton and are exploring possibilities of importing further quantities. The Government have in their view various sources for securing the required quantities of foreign cotton, of which the P.L. 480 aid programme is one. Negotiations with the U.S. authorities for an allocation under the aid programme are still in progress. There is, however, no specific proposal for importing American cotton against export of manganese ore.

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement, I find that Government have various sources in view for securing the required quantities of foreign cotton. May I know what are those sources other than PL 480?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We are buying against barter, against world tenders; we are also buying from Russia, Egypt and East African countries.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Which are the countries with whom we are having barter arrangements?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Rupee payment countries mostly and also with many others party to party basis.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: What is the difference in price of cotton imported from Egypt and from USA?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The staple length and quality vary with countries and therefore, the price varies. We buy where we get the best and the more superior qualities at competitive prices.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that Indian cotton mills need 55—56 lakh bales of cotton, what is the percentage of shortfall that is proposed to be imported?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The shortfall is of the order of a million bales. It comes to less than 20 per cent.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether millowners are still being refused future cotton quota of Indian cotton unless they take American B type at higher prices than their Indian counterpart? If so, why?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir.

Grant of Visas by Pakistan

*237. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the present position with regard to restrictions imposed by Pakistan in the matter of granting various categories of visas;

(b) whether there has been any change in the attitude previously taken by Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the nature of such change?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) The restrictive policy adopted by the Government of Pakistan is continuing.

(b) We are not aware of any change in this attitude of Pakistan.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: What are the important points of difference regarding this?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The point of difference is that we are for liberalisation of visa policy whereas Pakistan is not. Instead of liberalising, they are imposing more restrictions on the movement of people.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether any further restrictions have been imposed with regard to granting of visas?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, Sir. We have already stated in the answer of 7th August, 1960 that the Pakistan Government has introduced a system of cash security deposit of Rs. 100 in respect of passports for

India. Then, there are also restrictions on travel with regard to the A, B and C categories of visas. For instance, if a person travels with C visa, he is not allowed to get another visa during the calendar year, and there are many other restrictions. Then there are restrictions about issuing of visas also.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any recent communication has been received from Pakistan giving their viewpoint on this?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: They say they do not want to encourage people to travel in order to conserve foreign exchange.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee: Will the hon. Minister enlighten us whether these restrictions are not against the Nehru-Liaquat Pact?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, the hon. Member is right. This restriction is contrary to the agreement.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the number of visas which India has granted and the number granted by Pakistan during the last six months? Has the number of visas issued by us been much in excess of that granted by Pakistan?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: If the hon. Member would like to know, I can give the figures for the first three months of this year.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Yes.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: These are fortnightly figures:

Period	From W. Bengal to E. Pakistan	From E. Pakistan to W. Bengal
First half of January	4,671	7,246
Second half of January	5,477	8,793
First half of February	4,701	8,507
Second half of February	3,966	7,125
First half of March	6,294	10,335

Mr. Speaker: Next question. **Shri Bilbhuti Mishra.**