

fits their average earning. I am not sure whether the information of the hon. Member that they earn only four annas is correct. I am told that they earn more than eight annas.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** I was referring to a particular variety called the Aleppadan yarn, in spinning which a woman gets only four annas or even less, for eight hours a day. Has the Coir Board taken any steps to promote the export of this particular variety of yarn in order to relieve the distress of thousands of women?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** So far as we are aware, they have not taken any special action in regard to any particular variety. But if the hon. Member so desires, and that particular variety is more suitable, we shall certainly make enquiries.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know what assistance has given by the Board to set up new production centres?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We give to industrial co-operative societies about 75 per cent. loan for the share capital, and as much as eight times the share capital for loan-assistance for working capital.

**Shri Punnoose:** Is it not a fact that the Coir Board has recommended that in order to find a market for the mats and mattings, a delegation may be sent to foreign countries, and if so, may I know why Government have not accepted this very important recommendation?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We have quite a number of Trade Commissioners there: and at the present moment when we have foreign exchange difficulties, we do not want to send many delegations. But I can assure the hon. Member that the export promotion is being very carefully looked after, and it is increasing every year.

#### **Betterment Levy**

\*16. **Shri S. N. Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the states which have so far introduced betterment levy in their areas?

**The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra):** Bombay, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Madras, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh have enacted laws for betterment levy in their areas.

**Shri S. N. Dwivedy:** May I know whether the levy has already been imposed or only the legislations have been passed?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** Excepting Mysore, where it has been collected over a number of years, no other State—till March, 1956, I think—seems to have made any collection.

**Shri S. N. Dwivedy:** Are Government aware that the peasants are reluctant to utilise the water on account of the heavy imposition of the betterment levy?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** It may be so in certain areas, but I cannot speak generally about it.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the names of States where resentment has been expressed by the peasants in regard to the existing rate of betterment levy? May I also know whether in view of this resentment, Government will appoint any committee to look into the projects and see whether the costs of these projects have not been very heavy?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** The question of collection does not seem to have been taken up, and I think, therefore, this question of resistance from the peasants does not arise at the moment.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Are Government aware that in several project areas many of the projects which were constructed during the past two or three years have collapsed, especially the canals constructed for tube-well irrigation purposes? They are not in proper order and yet the betterment levy is being imposed.

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** It is also my personal experience that some of these drains or channels have collapsed. We are very seriously thinking about it. I think it should not prove to be beyond engineering ingenuity to construct the

drains and channels of tube-wells in such a way that they would not collapse

**Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:** Since this particular aspect of the problem has been accepted by Government, may I know whether Government will take any steps to see that such unnecessary expenditure is not incurred in the future?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** It is very necessary that Government should be very serious about it

#### Sikh Pilgrims to Pakistan

\*17. **Shri Bishwanath Roy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Pakistan recently refused the Government of India's request for visas for Sikh pilgrims who were desirous of visiting Lahore on the martyrdom anniversary of Guru Arjun Dev in the last month?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** Yes, Sir The Government of Pakistan refused permission in case of a pilgrim party of 500 Sikhs who desired to visit Gurdwara Dera Sahib and other Sikh Historical Gurdwaras in Lahore from 30th May to 3rd June, 1957 on the ground that they were unable to make necessary arrangements due to the short notice given to them

**Shri Bishwanath Roy:** May I know whether the Government of Pakistan has any rule regarding the duration of time before which requests should be made for visas?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Yes, three months' notice has to be given

**Shri A. S. Sarhadi:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of India were moved as far back as January, 1957, for such permission?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The request for permission was referred to the Pakistan Government only on the 15th of April.

**Shri A. S. Sarhadi:** May I know when that information was conveyed to the Pakistan Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** On 15th April. The Minister has already stated that.

**Shri A. S. Sarhadi:** May I know whether any enquiry will be made as to why this delay of four months was there, especially when the Government of India had been moved in January?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** There were some defects in the information sent, and by the time it came, it got delayed from the Punjab Government.

#### National Development Council

\*18. **Shri N. E. Munisamy:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to lay a statement giving the important decisions taken at the recent meeting of the National Development Council held in New Delhi in May, 1957?

**The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra):** A paper setting forth the important conclusions and suggestions arising out of the deliberations at the ninth meeting of the National Development Council held on June 3 and 4, 1957 is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 3]

**Shri N. E. Munisamy:** May I know whether any formula has been evolved to ensure maintenance of regional balance as one of the main objectives of planning, since it is apt to be overlooked in the interests of overall and rapid development, and if so, what it is?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** This was not an item considered by the National Development Council at its meeting in June last

**Shri N. E. Munisamy:** May I know whether the Chief Ministers of the different States were requested not to start a race with competing claims in regard to projects of one kind or another which will benefit in the long run, to the neglect of the development of other areas?

**Shri S. N. Mishra:** I could not follow the question.