

Foreign exchange difficulties sometimes come in the way but the anxiety of the Planning Commission is to ensure the completion of such important schemes as far as possible.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Is the Chief Minister's statement that Rs. 12 lakhs of foreign exchange has been allotted to UP and that too, to a private firm and not for the public sector, true or not?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I am afraid we will have to check it up before an answer could be furnished. We cannot say definitely whether we made statewide allocations in regard to foreign exchange. Allocations are made in regard to projects. I will have the matter checked up.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Has the Ministry's attention been drawn to it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid my attention has not been drawn to that.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: You were outside.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: For an equitable distribution of the available foreign exchange, has the Government considered a sort of a priority—state wise or project wise?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It will be considered projectwise primarily and not statewide.

Shrines in India and Pakistan

*23. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 268 on the 23rd July, 1957, and state:

(a) whether there has been any correspondence with the Pakistan Government about the convening of a meeting of the Joint Committee set up for the preparation of List of Hindu and Sikh religious shrines in West Pakistan and the protection of the properties attached thereto, and

preservation of their religious sanctity; and

(b) if so, with what effect?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of Pakistan were invited to send their representatives for a meeting of the Joint Committee, at New Delhi, in the fourth week of October, 1957. No reply was received. The invitation has been renewed for a meeting in the fourth week of November, 1957.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: In view of the evasive attitude of the Pakistan Government, has the Government of India thought of any other way to meet the objective?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No.

Imported Consumer Goods

+

*24. { **Shri Wodeyar:**
Shri Parulekar:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that with the announcement of the new Import Policy, the prices of almost all imported items such as medicines, stationery etc. have shot up; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The prices of some of the imported commodities including medicines and stationery which had initially shown a tendency to rise are now by and large steady.

(b) The price trends of imported commodities are constantly kept under review to see that there is no abnormal increase in the prices of commodities due to short supplies. The price trends will also be taken into account at the time of formulating the import policy for the next half

year and the policy, where considered necessary, might be liberalised with a view to keep prices at reasonable level. The scope for liberalising the imports is, however, limited due to the difficult foreign exchange position.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether the Government have considered the point that there has been a reduction in the quota in regard to essential drugs and medicines owing to the new import policy?

Shri Satish Chandra: The quota for the import of drugs and medicines has not been drastically cut. There has been some reduction. The policy is to import medicines in bulk and to process and pack them here so that with the same amount of foreign exchange, we can have greater quantity.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Workers in Rayon Factories

*8. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1646 on the 10th September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the report of the Survey undertaken to study the deleterious effect on the health of workers in Rayon factories has since been received;

(b) if so, the main features of the report;

(c) the nature of action proposed to be taken on the report; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Not yet.

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

(d) The data collected in the field studies is being tabulated and examined.

Automatic Looms

*12. **Shri S. E. Arumugham:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic looms allotted to Madras State so far; and

(b) whether these looms were allotted to the spinning mills alone or to the textile mills with weaving plants?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) 2784.

(b) Both composite and spinning Mills have been allotted automatic looms.

Mica Labour

*16. **Shri Nagi Reddy:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any memorandum from the Andhra Pradesh Mica Labour Union regarding "Silicas" disease prevalent among the labourers; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action on the same?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Information about the prevalence of "Silicosis" in mica areas has been brought to the notice of the Government by various organisations.

(b) Suggestion has been made to State Government to take appropriate steps for expeditious disposal of compensation cases. Arrangements for B.C.G. vaccination. X-Ray examination, hospitalization, etc. are also being made.