

Cottage Industries in Punjab

*1292. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to start Cottage Industries in Punjab for weavers belonging to Harijan Community; and

(b) if so, when this scheme is to be implemented?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of the Punjab suggested a scheme for training weavers belonging scheduled caste and other backward classes in tailoring, hosiery and knitting. The scheme has been included in the Second Five Year Plan and is being implemented since 1956-57.

International Trade Fair

*1293. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the Washington State International Trade Fair in Seattle (U.S.A.);

(b) the details of the exhibits, and

(c) the steps taken for the export of the articles appreciated in the U.S.A.?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No 78].

(c) Addresses of Indian exporters of such products as evoked trade enquiries were supplied to American businessmen and assistance was given to bring buyers and sellers together.

Indian Silk and Rayon Textiles

*1294. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that attempts are being made to organise purely

Indian silk and rayon textile exhibitions in some of the exporting countries of the world;

(b) if so, by whom;

(c) what further steps are going to be taken to diversify the export trade pattern in respect of both these items;

(d) the countries that are at present competing with Indian silk and rayon textiles; and

(e) the efforts that are being made at present to increase production of the raw materials required for the industry from internal resources?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The Silk and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council is engaged in exploring possibilities of organising such exhibitions in importing countries.

(c) In addition to pure silk and rayon piecegoods, efforts are made to export also ready-made garments, sarees, knitted fabrics etc.

(d) Japan, United Kingdom, France and Italy.

(e) Various schemes have been undertaken by State Governments to make the country self-sufficient in the production of raw silk by improved methods of mulberry cultivation, silk worm rearing and silk reeling. As regards rayon, the target for production of rayon yarn has been increased from 68.3 to 100 million lbs. of which 80 million lbs have been licensed.

Closure of Textile Mills

*1295. **Shri Rameshwar Tantis:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of workers have lost jobs on account of total or partial closure of many textile mills;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to restore them to work; and

(c) whether the increased excise duty on cloth is the reason of such closure?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to cotton textile mills. As on the 30th November, 1957 21 cotton textile mills remained totally closed and 18 partially closed affecting in all about 29,000 workers.

(b) Enquiry into the affairs of some of the closed mills is already in progress by the Committees appointed by Government under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. In addition, to the extent to which the economic working of the mills could be improved by rehabilitation of the productive equipment, Governmental assistance by way of loans is made available from the National Industrial Development Corporation, subject to certain safeguards for the repayment of the loan.

(c) No, Sir.

National Sample Survey

*1296 **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Sample Survey for the collection of data on crop acreage and yield estimation has been carried out in the rural sector from September, 1957 with a view to fix minimum wage for tiller, and

(b) if so, the progress made so far?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The National Sample Survey are carrying out a survey from September 1957 for the collection of data on crop acreages and yields of principal late Kharif and Rabi crops of the current agricultural year in an experimental attempt to build up estimates of production for India as a whole.

This survey has no relation with the fixation of minimum wage for tillers.

The field work of the above survey is expected to be completed by May 1958.

Agrarian Re-organisation

*1296-A. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the decisions taken at the high level discussions held in Mysore on 21st and 22nd September, 1957 on agrarian re-organisation; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): (a) The proposals which emerged from the discussions were that—

(i) the Governments concerned would proceed with their schemes of land reform and

(ii) closest co-operation was desirable between the Community Development movement and the Gramdan movement.

(b) The State Governments are proceeding with the formulation of their land reform proposals. Matters relating to co-operation between the Community Development movement and the Gramdan movement are at present being discussed with the leaders of the Gramdan movement.

D D T

*1297 **Shri Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how far the various projects for the stepping up of production of D.D.T. in the country have progressed; and

(b) whether the scheme for the doubling of the capacity of the D.D.T. factory at Delhi has been completed according to schedule?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The D.D.T. Factory at Delhi has now reached its rated production capacity of two tons per day. The expansion project designed to double this