

Alcohol and Alcohol Basic Industries and also for fermentation industries including Alcohol and products obtained therefrom; and

(b) if so, how far it has been implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) and (b). The Alcohol Committee has, among other things, recommended the setting up of such a Council and its recommendations are under consideration of Government.

Middle-Income Group Housing Scheme

*412. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated any scheme for Middle Income Group Housing; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). As already stated in reply to Question No. 4 on the 19th March 1957, the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme has been deleted from the Second Five Year Plan on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee 'D' on Social Services (Sub-committee on Housing). The possibility of drawing up an alternative scheme for middle income groups, based entirely on loan finance from the Life Insurance Corporation, or Housing Finance Corporations which might be set up, is however, under consideration of the Govt. of India.

Export of Shoes to Poland

*413. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1475 on the 10th September, 1957 and state the progress made so far in regard to the supply of 54,000 pairs of shoes to Poland?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): The stock is being inspected by the Polish shoe expert after which shipment will be made.

Swadeshi Cotton Mills of Pondicherry

*414. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Swadeshi Cotton Mills of Pondicherry have given notice of closure of their Mill on trade and financial conditions and which would result in the total unemployment of about 2200 workers; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to avert that closure?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Yes.

(b) The Pondicherry Administration is consulting the Textile Commissioner. The idea is to find out what steps are necessary for satisfactory working of the mill in a stable and economical manner.

Revision of Water Rates

*415. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of revising the water rates in various States has been considered in consultation with State Governments;

(b) if so, whether any revised system of water rates has been evolved; and

(c) if so, the nature of such revised system?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) The Planning Commission in January 1956 sent a circular letter to the State Governments requesting them to offer their comments and to report the action taken by them on the recommendations made by the Taxation Enquiry