

substantial part of the plant and machinery. The second stage will be proceeded with some time later.

**Beedi Factories in Vidharbha
(Bombay)**

*684. **Shri Balkrishna Wasnik:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the beedi manufacturers of Vidharbha (Bombay) have started shifting the factories from Vidharbha to the neighbouring States due to increase in the minimum wages in that region and thus rendering unemployed a few thousand workers; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in order to save the beedi workers from unemployment?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra):

(a) The Government of Bombay is the appropriate Government under the Minimum Wages Act for fixing minimum wages for workers in beedi industry. According to a report received from that Government, no beedi factory has shifted from Vidharbha Region

(b) It is proposed to convene very shortly an inter-State Committee to consider the question of removing disparities in the rates of minimum wages in beedi industry fixed by certain State Governments, including the Government of Bombay.

Coir Industry in West Bengal

*685. **Shri Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government have submitted any plan for the development of coir industry; and

(b) if so, what is the amount grant-

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The scheme submitted by the State Government included a Model factory with a Research Section. As the Coir Board itself propose to set up a Branch Research Institute with a Model Factory at Calcutta, the State Government have been requested to revise the scheme, which is awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

Border Incident in Jammu

*686. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani civilians armed with spears etc. infiltrated into Indian territory on Friday, February 14, 1958, near the village of Tokho Chakh near Jammu;

(b) if so, the details of the incident; and

(c) what effective steps have been taken to prevent such infiltrations in future?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the 14th February 1958, an Indian sepoy on leave was grazing his cattle near Takhu Chakh in Indian territory. At about 1500 hours, some Pakistani civilians, armed with lathis and spears, trespassed into Indian territory and tried to drive away his cattle. He raised an alarm and soon one of our patrols reached the spot. One of the Pakistani raiders was arrested but the others escaped.

(c) Police pickets are established along the border which is also regularly patrolled.

Abolition of District Boards

*687. **Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is in agreement with the view