

18th December, 1957 by the Minister of Food and Agriculture and state the steps Government propose to take to popularise the manufacture of the card board in areas where bamboos are found in abundance and in wild growth?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The term "Card Board" usually applies to Straw and Mill Boards. For the manufacture of such Boards, bamboo is not ordinarily used because of the cost of production being uneconomic. The question of popularising the use of bamboos for making Card Board does not, therefore, arise.

Handloom Industry

*163. { Shri S. V. Ramaswami:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Nanjappa:

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

(a) to what extent the reduction in rebate is responsible for the accumulation of handloom cloth in Madras State;

(b) whether reduction of Excise Duty has affected the offtake of handloom cloth and if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report that in Madras State there is an accumulation of stocks worth Rs 2½ crores and that the industry is threatened with a crisis; and

(d) what steps are proposed to meet this crisis?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The reduction in rebate has been effected from the 1st December, 1957 only, and it is too early to say whether if this has resulted in accumulation of stocks.

(b) Statistics of offtake of handloom cloth since the reduction in excise duty on medium cloth are not yet available.

(c) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(d) The Government of Madras will presumably indicate if any action by the Central Government is necessary if there is any such crisis. The Government of India will then consider what action is necessary.

Naga Hostiles

{ Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Subodh Hasda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
*164. { Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:
Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how many Naga hostiles have surrendered taking advantage of the general amnesty offered to them after the creation of the separate Naga Tuensang Area;

(b) how many Naga prisoners have been released since the general amnesty was announced;

(c) the quantity of arms surrendered by them; and

(d) whether the period of amnesty has been extended?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) 94.

(b) 277.

(c) 9 arms of various types and some quantity of ammunition.

(d) The amnesty was at first valid up to the 31st October, 1957. This time-limit has since been removed and no new date limiting the period of amnesty has yet been fixed.

Tractors

{ Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:
*165. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

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

(a) the steps taken for the manufacture of tractors in India; and