

Shri Muhammed Elias: May I know whether Government have received copies of the resolution passed by the Afro-Asian conference, and if so, what their opinion on the resolution is?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: About the resolutions? I think we have received them. I do not know whether they are a full record, but we have received the main resolutions. I cannot give an answer about a large bundle of resolutions in this way. But I have just said that as a matter of fact, in many matters, they are in line with our thinking; in some matters, they are not.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: What is the impression of the Prime Minister on whether the small States of Europe like this idea of having an association of Asian and African States? Perhaps, they may be against it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may ask for facts.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: What does the Prime Minister think on whether the small States of Europe would like this meeting of the Asian and African peoples? They may be against it. But my idea of world federation brings them all together.

Mr. Speaker: In either case, what anybody thinks is not a subject-matter for questions here.

Cement Distribution

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*289. { **Shri Ram Krishan:**
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Heda:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Damani:
Shri Shoba Ram:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a new scheme for the distribution of cement; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). In view of the comparatively easier supply position of cement as a result of increase in indigenous production, the State Governments have been advised to increase the public quota to the extent possible and abolish the permit system for sale of cement by stockists to consumers.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know the total revised quota under the new scheme State-wise?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If I give it State-wise, it will be too long a list. It is now 8,66,000 tons for a quarterly period.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the instructions by the Central Government to do away with the permit system have been followed by all the States, and if not, the reason therefor?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the hon. Member knows, the control of civil supplies is a State subject, and our advice is generally being looked into by the various State Governments. So many of the State Governments have already taken action, though it may not be complete abolition of the permit system.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether any special arrangements for supply of cement to public institutions is under consideration, since there is great difficulty in getting it owing to some unusual practices followed by others?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no special system followed for public institutions, but I may say that with the easy supply position of cement, it should be much easier for them to get their cement requirements.

Shri Damani: May I know whether the manufacturers are permitted to distribute or sell direct to the consumers?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether Government have got any scheme to check blackmarketing in cement so that the consumers could get cement at fair prices?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The question contains so many suppositions.

Shri Ranga: There is no question of supposition. What steps are Government taking to control black-marketing in the distribution of cement?

Shri Manubhai Shah: With the easing of the supply position, it can be said that it will not be difficult for the civil population to get cement.

Shri Heda: May I know the factors that were taken into account at the time of fixation of the quota for the different States, whether it was on the basis of projects, or areas or constructional activities of Government, and whether any guidance in the shape of preference being given to co-operative societies or public institutions was given to the States?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I have often repeated in the House, there are clearly laid-out priorities. National projects, the various public sector projects, railway constructions and the development projects of the State Governments take the first priority. Then, a considerable amount is released to the States for civil supply and for the public institutions. It is always recommended by the Central Government that as the position becomes easier, they should release more and more quotas to the public requirements of institutions and consumers.

Religious Shrines in Pakistan

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*290. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Joint Committee set up for the pre-

paration of lists of Hindu and Sikh religious shrines in West Pakistan and the protection of the properties attached thereto and preservation of their religious sanctity has been convened; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held at Karachi on the 24th and 25th January, 1958.

(b) The following tentative decisions were taken:

(i) The number of important shrines, the preservation and maintenance of which should be made the special responsibility of the Government should be limited to 200 in each country. The number is subject to revision at the time of finalisation of the lists of shrines.

(ii) Each country will be responsible for the preparation of the final list of shrines in the other country, which would be placed under the special care of the Government of that country. Each country would, however, furnish the other country with a list of important shrines in its own territory for purposes of check and comparison.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the officials who took part in this discussion in this Joint Committee? Was this meeting at the Secretariat level or Ministerial level or some other level?

The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am afraid I have not got that information; I shall gladly supply to the hon. Member after finding it out.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the decision with regard to the 200 places of religious worship that is