

the Federation take up the matter with the State Government concerned.

Refusal of Visas to Indians passing through Pakistan

*1903. Shri Balkrishna Wasnik: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government is refusing visas to the Indian nationals to pass through Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath All Khan): (a) A few cases have come to the notice of the Government of India in which the Government of Pakistan raised difficulties in granting transit visas to Indian nationals to pass through Pakistan by road.

(b) As visas were ultimately given as a result of our intercession with the Pakistan Foreign Office, no further action was considered necessary.

Tea Factories in Kangra, Punjab

*1908. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for installation of two tea factories in Kangra district of Punjab; and

(b) if so, when the work of installation of these factories will be started?

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

(a) and (b). A scheme for the rehabilitation of the tea industry in Kangra which would include the setting up of a tea factory is under the consideration of the Punjab Government.

Purchase of Iron Ore by Italy

*1909. Shri N. E. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Italian Government Purchase Organisation

has proposed a long term contract to buy iron ore from Western India on the lines of recent Indo-Japanese Iron Ore Agreement;

(b) if so, the terms thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for the development of Railway and Port facilities in the West Coast; and

(d) the quantity of iron ore imported by Italy during January-December, 1957 and how much it has contracted to import during 1958?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) Certain proposals are under consideration.

(d) A quantity of 62,242 tons of Iron Ore was imported from India by Italy during 1957. During 1958 a quantity of 1,90,000 tons has been contracted to be supplied so far.

Centenary Celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore

*1913. { Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Dr. Pashupati Mandal:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the All India Radio to prepare the people's mind for the centenary celebration of Rabindranath Tagore; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) (a) and (b). The Centenary Celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore are being organised under the supervision of a High-power Committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice-President. The All India Radio is working under the guidance of that Committee and will take all necessary steps in conformity with the general plan. The

Committee is not under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting but under the auspices of the Ministry of Education.

Manufacture of Earth-moving Equipment

*1916. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any scheme has been received from the indigenous manufacturers for the manufacture of earth-moving equipment in India?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Yes, Sir.

State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd.

*1917. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of business deals in which the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd., has acted as commission agents or brokers since its inception;

(b) the total amount involved in such deals; and

(c) the amount of commission accruing to the State Trading Corporation on these deals?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). The State Trading Corporation acts in a variety of ways in promoting and concluding business transactions. It does direct trading in minerals, and some other commodities, it implements Government's policies in regard to equalisation of prices and economical use of transportation facilities in commodities like cement; it helps its business associates to build up contacts and promote exports; it arranges link transactions, facilitating additional exports in exchange of imports of essential items of machinery and industrial raw materials from new sources of supply. The Corporation's role in some instances is analogous

to that of a commission agent or broker in bringing the buyers and sellers together, but out of the variety of the business techniques and modes employed by the State Trading Corporation, it is regretted, it is not easy to identify and classify purely commission agency business and isolate the amounts earned for such services.

Import of Tractors

*1923. **Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the imports of tractors and its spare parts have been drastically reduced within the last two years, giving the value of these imports;

(b) whether agricultural production is adversely affected by the drastic reduction in the import of tractors; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange saved by the reduced import of tractors?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 53].

Export of Indian Cotton Textiles to U.K.

*1924. **Shri Rameshwar Tanti:**
Shri Bhogji Bhal:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Textile Association has requested India to restrict exports of Indian textile goods to U.K.;

(b) if so, what is the reason for this request; and

(c) what steps have been taken to safeguard the interest of the Indian textile industry in its export to U.K.?