

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Requisitioning of Houses in Delhi

***1208. Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some houses in New Delhi which were requisitioned by Government during war time and subsequently handed over to foreign Embassies have not been so far derequisitioned and possession thereof given to their owners; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) In some cases the foreign Missions have not yet been able to lease or construct alternative accommodation for themselves. In other cases they are negotiating with the landlords for the purchase of the property or conversion of the requisitioning into a lease.

Jute Mills in Calcutta

***1209. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute mills in Calcutta are not working to their full capacity for want of adequate raw materials; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Remittances to India from Heads of Indian Missions Abroad

***1210. Shri Dinesh Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Ministry of External

Affairs is considering a proposal to do away with statements regarding remittances to India which are required to be submitted by Indian personnel serving abroad?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Yes, Sir.

Price of Bidi Tobacco and Leaves

***1211. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the price of bidi tobacco and leaves has increased from 1956-58;

(b) how far the rise in excise duty has been responsible for this;

(c) whether many small businesses and manufacturers have closed down their establishments; and

(d) if so, the extent of unemployment caused thereby?

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

(a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) The price of bidi tobacco has increased by Rs. 20 approximately per manund from 1956 to 1958. Information regarding the price of "bidi" leaves" is not available.

(b) The increase in the price of bidi tobacco is mainly due to the increase in excise duty on bidi varieties of tobacco.

(c) and (d). No information has been received about the closure of any small business and manufacturing establishment consequent upon the increase in excise duty on bidi tobacco.

Tin Plates for Packing

***1212. Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the requirements of the food packing indus-