

Indian Ambassador to Iraq

*1328. **Shri S. A. Mehdi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indian Ambassador designate to Iraq is likely to reach Bagdad; and

(b) when was this appointment decided upon?

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

(a) The Indian Ambassador to Iraq reached Bagdad on the 4th September, 1958.

(b) The announcement of the proposed appointment by the Government of Iraq and the Government of India was made on the 9th April 1958.

Shri S. A. Mehdi: May I know where was the Ambassador designate during the Iraq revolt?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I think he was somewhere in Sweden or on his way in London. I do not know the exact place where he was at the time of the revolt.

Shri Dinesh Singh: In view of the revolt in Iraq, may I know why the Ambassador-designate was not asked to go to Iraq directly instead of coming to India?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: He is entitled to three months leave. He must have spent a part of it in London. In fact, there was only a difference of four months between the actual announcement of his appointment and his taking over charge. He has taken just only one month more than the usual time allotted for such transfers.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: Our Ambassadors' posts remain unfilled for quite a long time. In the recent three world events, first the revolution in Iraq, second, in the Suez Canal and third, in Hungary, our Ambassadors were not present. May I know whether the Government will take steps to see that our Ambassadors' appointments are made quickly and efficiently?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That is a suggestion for action.

Lay off of Textile Workers, Kanpur

*1330. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 6,000 textile workers of Kanpur have been laid off in three textile mills;

(b) whether any steps have been or are being taken to appoint a separate committee to tackle this situation in Kanpur as decided at the 16th Labour Conference at Nainital;

(c) whether the mill-owners have submitted any suggestion for running these mills efficiently;

(d) if so, what are the suggestions; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) 5378 have been laid off.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Yes.

(d) The main suggestions are:

reduction in the margin of security against advances by banks, reduction in excise duties, revision of railway freight etc.

(e) The suggestions have already been considered by the Textile Enquiry Committee whose report is now under consideration of Government.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The case of textile workers and the Textile enquiry report—this matter was discussed at the Sixteenth Labour Conference. May I know the reason why a particular committee was not appointed for Kanpur when it was definitely mentioned there and assured?