

Nos. During the current licensing period April-September, 1958, licences have been issued for the import of 8030 sets of truck and bus components. The production during the months April-July 1958 was 3387 Nos.

(b) No such complaints have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Employment Exchanges

*1342. **Shrimati Ita Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to put Employment Exchanges in the country under the charge of gazetted officers only is under the consideration of the Government of India;

(b) if so, the reasons for this move; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be reached?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abd Ali): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Export of Iron Ore

*1343. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 126 on the 14th August, 1958 and state:

(a) the nature of assistance asked for by the Orissa Government for facilitating the export of Iron ore from Sukinda Mines to Japan through the port of Paradip; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The Orissa Government have asked for assistance in building a railway siding from the Sukinda mines to Jenapur and for improvements in the inland water transport facilities from Jenapur to the port.

(b) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry

of Railways, Ministry of Transport and the Planning Commission. Meanwhile, the State Trading Corporation are aiding the Government of Orissa to organise mid-stream loading and export through the Port of Paradip about 50,000 tons of iron ore to Japan.

Sale of Electrical Goods

*1344. **Shri Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous electrical goods are being tested before they are put for sale in the open market; and

(b) if so, whether the issue of safety certificates has been made compulsory?

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

(a) Yes, Sir, generally.

(b) No, Sir.

Tea Exports

*1345. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of Indian tea declined to 447 million lbs. valued at Rs. 123.39 crores in 1957 from 523.56 million lbs. valued at Rs. 142.82 crores in the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline; and

(c) the steps taken to promote its exports?

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

(a) and (b). In 1956 exports were unusually high and cannot be regarded as a correct basis for comparison with exports in normal years averaging about 450 million lbs. Though tea exports are subject to fluctuations both in quantity and value, exports in 1957 do not show any serious decline.

(c) Efforts are being continually made to increase our exports to various countries by participating in joint

publicity campaigns for increased consumption of tea. In a few other countries, we are contemplating to establish Public Relations Units for direct propaganda and publicity. In countries which have State controlled economies, we are trying to sell tea through bilateral arrangements.

Sixteenth Indian Labour Conference

*1346. { Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to proceedings of the XVI Indian Labour Conference laid on the Table on the 11th August, 1958 and lay a statement showing:

(a) the steps taken to implement decision on Industrial Relations;

(b) how far verification of membership of unions has taken place based on the said decision; and

(c) whether any meeting of representatives of Central Trade Unions has been called for this purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Necessary communication has been addressed to State Governments with regard to the action to be taken by them. Needful is being done by the Central Government about the items which concern us.

(b) List of affiliated unions of the four Central Trade Union Organisations respectively, have been received. Appropriate action is being taken to verify the membership of these unions.

(c) No.

Long Staple Cotton

*1347. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present annual requirements of long staple cotton in India;

(b) the extent to which the requirements are met at present by indigenous production;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to imports of such variety of cotton;

(d) if so, the nature of such decision; and

(e) the names of the countries from where this cotton will be imported giving separate figures in each case?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The total requirements of long staple cotton of the textile mills in India are round about 7 lakh Indian bales per year.

(b) These requirements are met from indigenous production to the extent of 1 to 1½ lakh bales.

(c) to (e). Cotton stapling 1—1½" and above are alone permitted for import. Imports depend upon the requirements of the textile mills in India, the availability of foreign exchange and indigenous production, after taking into consideration the cotton imports under the U.S.A. Aid programmes. Keeping this in view the required quantities of cotton are allowed for import from soft currency countries and U.S.A. It is, therefore, difficult to estimate the requirements of foreign cotton in advance for the future years.

Narsing Girji Manufacturing Company Ltd., Sholapur

*1348. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Sonavane:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2 on the 11th February, 1958 regarding the inquiry by the Somani Committee into the working of the Narsing Girji Manufacturing Company Ltd., Sholapur and state:

(a) whether Government has since received the report from the Somani Committee on this mill;