

leave before they leave for the United Kingdom followed immediately by the Accountant General's formal authority to ensure that there is no delay in disbursements in the United Kingdom.

(d) Suitable instructions for the implementation of the recommendations of the High Commission have been issued to all the State Governments and Departments of the Government of India.

American Spice Trade Association

*522. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India is regularly contributing any money to the American Spice Trade Association;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total amount so far contributed?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (c). Government of India as such are not regularly contributing any money to the American Spice Trade Association. However an amount of Rs. 28,650 was contributed by the Cashew and Pepper Export Promotion Council and Rs. 7,500 by the Central Government in March, 1958. The Association have undertaken to publicise the superior quality of Indian pepper, in addition to general publicity for other spices.

Export of Pepper and Coir Yarn

*523. Shri E. V. K. Sampath: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been any decline in India's exports of pepper and coir yarn and goods in 1957-58 as compared to 1956-57; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exports of pepper declined due to increasing competition from cheaper varieties of Indonesian and Sarawak pepper. While the export of coir fibre and coir goods showed some improvement, there was a decline in the export of coir yarn for which no specific reason can be given except the normal fluctuation in demand.

Burn and Co., Howrah

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

(a) whether the tripartite meeting proposed by Government to discuss the holding up of priority project jobs in Burn & Co., Howrah and the lay off of workmen, has since been held; and

(b) if not, why not?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Conference was held on 17th November, 1958. With your permission, I may also add, Sir, that M/s. Burn & Co. have now reported that the steel position has improved and that their management have decided to open their Panel shop for recommencement of normal production with effect from 8th December, 1958. All the Panel shop workers, who were laid off have been asked to resume work on 8th December, 1958.

Life Insurance Corporation Employees

*525. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain demands including payment of bonus have been made by the All India Life Insurance Employees' Association, Bombay; and

(b) if so, when the final decision about this issue is likely to be taken?