

a statement that there is acute shortage of cotton and that we have to depend upon import of cotton?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): May I say, Sir, that there is no acute shortage of cotton?

Recovery of Abducted Women

***124. Shri A. S. Sarhadi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of abducted women rescued from West Pakistan during the last year as against the number rescued from India;

(b) whether it is a fact that several districts of the Punjab (Pakistan) are closed and are not accessible for rescue of abducted women; and

(c) if so, the steps that Government have taken to enable their rescue from those districts?

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

(a) During the last one year (from April 1, 1956, to March 31, 1957) 693 persons were recovered in India, of whom 329 were transferred to Pakistan and 364 released in India. During the same period 279 persons were recovered in Pakistan, of whom 158 were brought to India and 121 released in Pakistan.

(b) Government are unaware of any district in West Pakistan being inaccessible for recovery work.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: May I know if it is a fact that the Indian rescue staff is meeting with difficulties in Pakistan in the matter of rescue of abducted women?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The difficulties that are experienced are only in the case of abducted persons from tribal areas. Otherwise, there is not much difficulty so far as the other districts are concerned.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: Is it a fact that Sialkot, bordering Kashmir, is closed to the rescue staff?

Shri Lakshmi Menon: I have no information.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: Will the Government enquire about it if it is brought to the notice of the hon. Minister?

Mr. Speaker: That is always done.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Out of the women who were recovered, some were sent to Pakistan and some others were sent to India. May I know what is the fate of those recovered women who were either sent to Pakistan or sent to India, and from India to Pakistan and *vice versa*?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: They have been sent to the place where they had been living before.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know the number of abducted women and children in the Lahore transit camp at present?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: For which year?

Mr. Speaker: At present.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have no information, Sir. I can give the number recovered from the Lahore district.

Import of Tractors

***125. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of import licenses issued during the year 1956 for the import of small-size tractors;

(b) the names of exporting countries; and

(c) the total value of the tractors for which licenses were issued?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) By small size tractors, the hon. Member perhaps refers to agricultural tractors. If so, the number of licences issued is 54.

(b) West Germany, U.K., U.S.A., Australia and Czechoslovakia.