

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.

(c) Rs. 516.5 lakhs.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know if the small tractors for which licences have been issued have been received?

Sbri Manubhai Shah: Yes; so far as is known, I am speaking of the receipt of tractors worth Rs. 516 lakhs last year.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know if these small tractors imported from countries other than the Soviet Union and Japan would be good, because the small tractors of the Soviet Union and Japan are supposed to be the best? Have we thought of importing any from those two countries?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is a matter of opinion. Actually in our country smaller tractors up to 15 h.p. have so far been banned, because in the opinion of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture they are not very suitable for this country. However, we are contemplating manufacturing small tractors in our own country as the Ministry of Food and Agriculture desire to permit their use for certain agricultural purposes.

Central Silk Board

*126. **Shri Shankariah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has recommended the Chakki System of Supply of disease-free cocoon seeds (after the second fever) to the cocoon rearers;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether any co-operative society for this purpose has been started anywhere in the country;

(d) the amount allotted for this purpose during the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 and the expenditure incurred during the same period;

(e) whether any experiments have been made in this respect; and

(f) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 1952-53 onward.

(c) Not so far.

(d) Grants amounting to Rs. 1,06,603/- and Rs. 27,557/- were given to the various State Governments during the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 respectively. The expenditure incurred during the same period was about Rs. 52,203/-.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The average yield of cocoons where chawki rearing has been introduced, has increased by 20 to 25 per cent.

Shri Shankariah: Though the resolution was passed in 1952, may I know why it was not implemented?

Shri Kanungo: The State Governments have not been able to spend whatever grants and loans were given to them and the allocations they received, mainly because of lack of staff. Lately the Government of India have offered to bear 50 per cent of the cost of the superior staff at the headquarters and we believe that in this year, the expenditure will match the allocations.

Shri Shankariah: Will the Government make it compulsory that all rearers are to adopt the chakki system of supply of cocoon seeds?

Shri Kanungo: The Silk Board has not made any proposals about it.

Shri Shankariah: May I know how much will be the extra cost for implementing this system?

Shri Kanungo: It will be a very large sum if it is spread out over the whole of India. In any case, it depends upon the acceptability of the rearers to prefer this type of rearing.

Shri Dasappa: May I know what percentage of the rearings is met through the chakki system?