

recorded in our Sea borne Trade Accounts.

COTTON PURCHASE

*1249. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the contracts the Government of India have made during the year 1952-53 for the purchase of cotton with (i) U.S.A., (ii) Egypt and (iii) Uganda; and

(b) when the cotton above mentioned is expected to reach India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

PRODUCTION OF COTTON

*1250. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of cotton in the year 1952-53; and

(b) the estimated requirement of cotton for the same period?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 58.]

BROADCASTS IN KONKANI AND SINDHI LANGUAGES

*1251. **Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to broadcast programmes in Konkani language; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to broadcast programmes in Sindhi language?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir. A programme of 30 minutes' duration in Konkani has been started from the Bombay Station of All India Radio with effect from the 19th October 1952.

(b) The question of starting programmes in Sindhi from Bombay Station might be taken up after the new 50 k.w. mediumwave transmitter has been installed there.

COTTON PRICES

*1252. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the general world market of cotton is having a tendency of

over production with consequential fall in cotton prices;

(b) whether the price of Indian cotton has fallen by 25 p.c. during the last few months; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government are proposing to take to reduce the prices of cloth in accordance with the recommendations of the Tariff Board?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No.

(b) There has been a slight decline in prices as compared with September.

(c) The prices of cotton in September would have necessitated a rise in the price of the controlled varieties of mill cloth and yarn in October last. Government however decided not to alter the July prices. The Policy for January 1953 is under consideration.

CREMATION TAX LEVIED IN EAST PAKISTAN

*1253. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ansars in East Pakistan recover Rs. 5 as tax from the relatives before a Hindu dead-body is allowed to be cremated?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Government have seen a Press report about this but have no other information. The Press report has been brought to the attention of the Pakistan Government.

TILAIYA DAM HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT

*1255. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the Hydro-Electric Plant of the Tilaiya Dam has been completed by now and if so, when it will begin working;

(b) with regard to the charge for the consumption of electricity, what is the rate per k.w.t. charged by the D.V.C. from the Government of Bihar and by the Government of Bihar from the consuming public of Hazaribagh; and

(c) whether the charge for the consumption of electricity will be reduced when the Hydro Electric Plant will begin working?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.