

Chandernagore, opinion of Chandernagore people was taken:

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the people of Chandernagore that the present Act is inadequate for maintaining privileges of Chandernagore people and that further modifications of this Act are necessary; and

(c) whether Government have in contemplation any procedure to consult public opinion of Chandernagore before the implementation of the promulgated Act begins?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Such a representation has been received from some members of the Advisory Council of Chandernagore.

The first 65 Sections of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, have been extended to Chandernagore with suitable modifications. It is Government's intention to extend the remaining Sections of the Act after adaptation.

The best method of consulting the people will be through the elections when they are held.

SPARE PARTS FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

***2129. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Union Government have decided to issue licences for the import of spare parts required for agricultural machinery?

(b) How many licences have so far been issued?

(c) What are the considerations under which such licences are issued?

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

(b) Six licences valued at Rs. 38,070 for soft currency areas have so far been issued during the current licensing period.

(c) Licences are issued to established importers on the basis of quotas calculated with reference to their past imports of these spare parts.

NATIONAL EXTENSION SERVICE

***2130. Shri Rajagopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether it is proposed to have a National Extension Service in addition to the Community Development Programme launched on October 2, 1952?

(b) If so, what will be the area covered by the Programme?

(c) Is it proposed to include the backward districts of Srikakulam in Andhra in the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes.

(b) Approximately one-fourth of the country during the First Five-Year Plan period.

(c) Every district in the State is proposed to be covered by the programme.

SHELLAC INDUSTRY

***2131. Shri Punnoose:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that a serious situation has arisen in the shellac industry in India as a result of an increase in the export of stick lac and seed lac from India, throwing over 70 per cent. of the shellac workers out of employment?

(b) If so, do Government propose to ban or restrict the export of stick lac and seed lac from India in order to save the industry from ruin?

(c) What measures do Government propose to take in order to render relief to the unemployed shellac workers?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Government are aware that the Shellac Industry is experiencing some difficulties at present. Information regarding number of workers employed in shellac factories and thrown out of work is not available.

(b) The question of banning the export of stick lac is under consideration.

(c) This is primarily the concern of the State Governments.

IMPORT OF PLASTIC WIRES

***2132. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have recently restricted import of plastic wires and flexibles by 10 per cent.;

(b) if so, whether this is in revision of a policy devised a few weeks earlier for import for January—June, 1953; and

(c) the reasons that led the Government so abruptly to change this policy?