

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): So far as the Government are aware, the plant is still operating.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF INDIAN COFFEE BOARD EMPLOYEES

***221. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving pay and allowances as recommended by the Central Pay Commission to the employees of the Indian Coffee Board; and

(b) if not, whether the employees have demanded implementation of the Pay Commission Scales and if so, why it has not been granted?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). There are many posts under the Indian Coffee Board which do not correspond to any post under the Central Government. The general question of revision of scales of pay and allowances of the employees of the Board is under consideration. Dearness allowance, however, is given in accordance with the rules applicable to Central Government servants.

EXAMINATION OF STATE TRADING COMMITTEES' REPORT

***222. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the report of the Committee appointed to make a quick examination of the recommendations of the State Trading Committee has been submitted and if so, what are the salient features of this report?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

RELIEF TO HANDLOOM WEAVERS

***223. Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the distress amongst handloom weavers consequent on unemployment and accumulation of stocks, particularly in the Tamil districts of the Madras State; and

(b) whether the Government of Madras have approached the Government of India to help them in giving relief to these people, and if so, what help was given?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Government are aware of the

difficulties created by the accumulation of stocks of handloom fabrics.

(b) No. The latter part of the question does not arise.

JUTE MILLS' DELEGATION IN BIHAR

***224. Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a three-man delegation of Jute Mills has recently visited Bihar under the instructions of the Government of India?

(b) If so, what is the purpose of their visit and what are the places they visited in Bihar?

(c) Has the Delegation submitted any report to Government?

(d) If so, what are the main features of the report?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (d). One of the difficulties of the jute growers in the State of Bihar, it was reported to Government, was the absence of any direct contacts between them and the mills. This point was brought to the notice of the Indian Jute Mills Association which readily agreed to send a delegation to Bihar. The delegation, which was accompanied by an Officer of the Government of Bihar, visited Patna, Purnea, Forbesganj and Golabagh. A copy of the report of the delegation has been received by Government. The Report brings out the following points:

(i) Prices in Bihar are on a parity with other areas. As, however, the yield per acre in Bihar is low, prices which are economic for Assam or Bengal are often unsatisfactory to the cultivator in Bihar.

(ii) Acute shortage of water reflects adversely on the quality of Bihar Jute.

(iii) Although the availability of wagons is satisfactory, there is congestion at the transhipment points.

(iv) About 75 per cent. of the crop had been sold by the grower when the delegation visited Bihar.

KOSI CONTROL SCHEME

***225. Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the work on the Kosi Control Scheme that was sus-