

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know, Sir, the reason why the Government of India have not yet complied with the request of the Chief Minister of Madras State for reservation of 60 per cent. of production of bordered sarees and dhotis by the handloom industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know, Sir, how this question arises from this.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, how much out of these 3 crores of rupees collected is now allotted or spent in helping Khadi production?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: With regard to Khadi production, Sir, I can give details if notice is given.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that thousands of weavers thrown out of employment are wandering as beggars as they do not get alternative work?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This Government has no information.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, whether any amount was given to the Travancore-Cochin State?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Travancore-Cochin State was invited to send up proposals. I believe the proposals have been sent and are now being examined.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, if Government propose to give any kind of help to other Khadi producing States in India, as for example, Bihar, U.P. and Andhra?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I require notice.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Government of India have issued orders to restrict installation of new spindles, and if so, why?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think, Sir, the Government of India have issued any such order.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know, Sir, the basis on which this cess is

being distributed to the different States?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the real basis is a question of need. If State Governments send up proposals and those proposals fit in with the scheme envisaged in the Act under which the cess is collected, then the money is given.

Shri Raghavaiah: Of the cess collected, i.e. Rs. 3 crores, may I know what amount is going to be spent on the Mission that is going to be sent abroad for canvassing markets for handloom and Khadi cloth? It is stated in the Act that a Mission will be sent abroad for canvassing markets.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, it depends upon the budget that the Handloom Board sends to us. I am afraid I have not got the details as yet.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are the Government aware that the mill-owners have adopted such a method of production that the estimated cess will not be realised?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, it looks as though our estimates are likely to be exceeded.

Shri Heda: In view of the fact that in spite of some subsidy given at the time of the sale of Khadi, the production of Khadi has not appreciably increased, are Government contemplating some more measures to see that production of Khadi is increased?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I would like to verify the basis of the question. If the hon. Member gives notice, I will furnish an answer.

Shri Muniswamy: The hon. Minister was just now pleased to state that the scheme submitted by the Madras Government is now under the consideration of the Central Government. May I know how long it will take to complete scrutiny of the scheme and when will the distribution take place?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Human factor is involved in this and it is

a thing which is rather difficult to estimate. We are doing everything to expedite our decision.

Shri N. Somana: May I know, Sir, which are the States that have been given assistance so far?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, no distribution has taken place from out of the proceeds of this cess. Assistance is being given from out of funds allocated for this purpose otherwise. There are a number of schemes from State Governments which are now being examined and I believe in the course of about three to four weeks, the scrutiny will be completed and we might sanction expenditure in regard to proposals made by the various State Governments.

NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

*955. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on account of continuous and incessant rains in the North East Frontier Agency for the last four months of April, May, June and July, communications both land and air, have been completely dislocated;

(b) if so, what are the means by which food, medicine and other essential articles are carried to the interior of the North East Frontier Agency from outside;

(c) whether Government are aware that acute food shortage prevails in North East Frontier Agency;

(d) whether the local authorities in North East Frontier Agency have appealed to Government for relief; and

(e) if so, what actions have been taken?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika):

(a) Communications in the Agency have been severely dislocated in several areas of the Agency on account of heavy rains during the monsoon months.

391 PSD.

(b) Where foot-tracks have remained open to traffic, essential supplies have been carried to the interior outposts through porters. Elsewhere supplies have been regularly airdropped, except on days when weather conditions have been adverse for air-dropping in the hills.

(c) Living conditions in certain areas of the hills, where the slopes are too steep to permit of proper cultivation, have always been arduous during certain months, but no report has been received that the hill-people are experiencing any unusual difficulty this year.

(d) The local officers have standing instructions to submit periodical intimation regarding their stocks of essential supplies, so that airdrop may be arranged in each of the areas according to their requirements. These instructions are being followed.

(e) The I.A.F., who are carrying out the airdropping operations, have been making every effort to airdrop essential supplies in the areas where they are required. They have airdropped over 48,500 maunds of food and essential commodities at 35 centres in the Hill areas of the North East Frontier Agency from October, 1952 to the end of July, 1953. About 2,300 men are permanently employed as porters in the six Districts, so that the local Officers may be able, wherever the hill-tracks permit, to send supplies to the Administrative Centres and outposts where they are required. Steps have also been taken to construct mule tracks and jeepable roads in some of the outlying areas.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware of an appeal made by the A.P.O. and M.O. from Hayulyang in North East Frontier Agency to the Indian public (which was published on 4th July in the *Assam Tribune*) to compel the unsympathetic and inactive authorities to make immediate arrangements to save them from the clutches of sure death?