

(f) The cost of furniture supplied to these flats are:—

'B' type .. Rs. 1,756/- per unit.

'C' type .. Rs. 1,865/- per unit.

(g) The rent of such furniture has been calculated at the rate of 9 per cent. *per annum* of the capital cost of 'durable' furniture and 16½ per cent. *per annum* of the capital cost of 'non-durable' furniture. Generally speaking, all wooden furniture is classified as 'durable', and druggets, door mats and curtains as "non-durable".

TREATY WITH U.S.A.

*1161. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation is being negotiated between India and the United States;

(b) whether both the countries have expressed interest in negotiating a double taxation treaty; and

(c) if so, when such a treaty is likely to materialise?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The treaty is still under discussion between the two Governments and it is not possible to say when it will be concluded.

INDIA STORES DEPARTMENT, LONDON

*1162. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state how many of the officers working in the India Stores Department, London are qualified to make professional inspection of stores?

(b) Is there any separate agency to do this work?

(c) What is the total business handled by the India Stores Department during the current year?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragoina): (a) 73.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Statistics are maintained for financial years only. During 1952-53, the total value of purchases made by the Department was £19.2 million.

CHANDERNAGORE

*1163. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the shop-employees of Chandernagore for promulgation of the West Bengal Shops and Establishment Act there; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take with regard to this matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes; on the 4th August, 1953.

(b) Government have decided to extend this Act to Chandernagore as soon as possible. Steps are being taken to provide the necessary administrative machinery to implement the Act.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES

*1164. **Shri B. N. Kuroel:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state what are the main steps Government have taken so far under the Five Year Plan to improve the economic condition of the scheduled castes in the country?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The State Governments do not distinguish between scheduled castes and other backward classes. Rs. 4 crores have been provided in the Plan by the Central Government for expenditure on the welfare of scheduled castes and other backward classes. Programmes under this provision are being formulated. State Governments have made, in addition, a provision for Rs. 10 crores for scheduled castes and backward classes as distinguished from scheduled tribes for whom a provision of Rs. 23 crores has been made by them in their Plans. As regards the types of schemes which