

**Shri Tulsidas:** May I know, Sir, whether the Company has made sufficient profits to enable it to set aside the maximum amount of normal depreciation as well as initial and extra depreciation allowed under the income-tax law?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Yes, Sir. During the first year, the necessary amount of depreciation has been made. That the hon. Member can see from the published annual accounts.

**Mr. Speaker:** The point, as I understand, is whether the Company has made sufficient profits out of which depreciation funds can be set aside.

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Yes, Sir. The answer was 'yes'. Necessary depreciation has been made.

**Shri Tulsidas:** What is the maximum amount of normal depreciation and also initial and extra depreciation that can be set aside, and what are the corresponding amounts actually set aside?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I would require notice.

#### SALES TAX ON HANDLOOM CLOTH

**\*632. Shri L. Jogeswar Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have already given exemption from sales tax to handloom cloth and the names of the States that have not done so; and

(b) what steps have been taken so far towards uniformity in this respect?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 25.]

I would like to add to that statement that as seen in the papers—the Madras Government are seeking to exempt handloom cloth from sales tax.

(b) Central Government have requested all the State Governments

to grant exemption to handloom cloth from sales tax.

**Shri L. Jogeswar Singh:** May I know what will be the total fall in revenue as a result of the exemption to handloom cloth from sales tax? What will be the increase of production as a result of such exemption?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** If I understand the hon. Member to ask what is the amount realised by way of sales tax, I am afraid, I have not got any statistics in that regard.

**Shri Sivamurthi Swami:** May I know the date on which the Central Government requested the State Governments to exempt handloom cloth from sales tax?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I cannot give the exact date; it was sometime back, when we constituted the Handloom Board. We had written sometime towards the end of last year.

#### MUSLIMS FROM PAKISTAN

**\*633. Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many Muslims from Pakistan came to India on temporary permits during 1951, 1952 and 1953?

(b) How many such persons overstayed the period of their permits?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### INDIAN COFFEE BOARD EMPLOYEES

**\*636. Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Indian Coffee Board do not get house rent and city compensatory allowances as recommended by the Central Pay Commission; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) A statement is laid on the Table

of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 26.]

(b) This is a matter for the Indian Coffee Board to decide.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know whether the Government has received any representation that these allowances are not being given to the employees?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would not say a specific representation on these terms has been received. We had a lot of representations in regard to the differences between the Coffee Board and the employees, both in regard to recognition of the Unions and with regard to pay and other allowances.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know what steps Government has taken at least in regard to pay and allowances?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Unfortunately, we are in a somewhat difficult position. The Coffee Board is, to a very large extent, autonomous. In certain matters we have a veto; that is, if they take a particular action, we can veto the action. But, I may tell my hon. friend that this is a matter which has been worrying me. When I took up this matter with the officers of the Board, I found that the Board has recommended the closing down of certain coffee shops. On the whole, the matter has to be reviewed over again. I recognise, in all conscience, that the salaries paid are very low. I have myself gone into several of these coffee shops and made enquiries and I am quite alive to the fact that their pay and prospects ought to be better. But, subject to the powers that I have, I am trying my best but, I am afraid, it will take some time to see any mistake.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know the number of employees working under this Board?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Since the Board is not functioning under Government, I cannot give these details, unless a specific question is put down.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Similar complaints are forthcoming from the employees under other Boards. May I enquire whether it is the intention of Government to lay down a uniform policy which is to be followed by all the Commodity Boards in this respect?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I generally do not favour a procrustean bed.

#### OVERSEAS CHARGE ON PETROL

\*637. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all the Companies (B.O.C., S.V.O.C. and Caltex) charge two annas as overseas charge on every gallon of petrol?

(b) If so, is it a fact that they levy this charge also on power alcohol which is supplied to them in India for mixing with petrol for consumption in this country?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). I place on the Table of the House a statement explaining the position in this behalf. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 27.]

**Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** May I know whether the Government propose to discontinue the system of overseas charge on power alcohol produced in India?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** As I have explained in the statement, the whole of the surcharge is levied as a temporary measure and we would like to do away with it as soon as supplies from the normal sources are restored.

**Shri Sinhasan Singh:** May I know the total productive capacity of the distilleries in India that produce power alcohol?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** No, Sir; that does not arise out of this and I would require notice.

**Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** May I know the amount paid as overseas charges on power alcohol produced in India?