

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether any foreign capital has been transferred since 1947?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would like to have notice.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether there is any jute mill which produces purely from jute substitutes these goods?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The answer is contained in part (d) of the reply: "No Indian Mills are known to be using any substitutes."

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Is it not a fact that these substitutes are being mixed with jute and goods are made?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It all depends on what my hon. friend means by 'substitutes'. If it is the intention of hon. Member that we should give him particulars about the mixing of lower grade jute with better quality jute, it is a different matter altogether and we have not got exact information. But so far as the information which Government have in their possession no substitutes are being used.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** I am referring to mesta, hemp, etc.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Mesta and Bimli which are lower grade jute are categorized as jute; they are not categorized as substitutes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know whether there is reduction of the working hours since American stock pilling had ceased?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would like to have notice.

**Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** May I ask whether the number of officers and workers working in the mills in December 1951 are more or less than the corresponding figure in the previous year?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** In the first place I could not quite catch what the question is and from what I have understood of the question, I may say in reply that I have not got the information.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not know whether this question will be admissible. The hon. Member wants to know whether he has information about the number of people employed and whether their number is now less or greater than what it was previously.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I have already said that I have no information.

#### AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

\*199. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the States where minimum wages have been fixed for agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act 1948; and

(b) what other steps are being taken by the Government of India to improve the conditions of agricultural labour?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, minimum rates of wages for agricultural workers have been fixed in the States of Punjab, Delhi, Ajmer and Kutch and in the Patna District of Bihar.

(b) I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the statement laid on the Table of the House on the 1st October, 1951, which contains an account of the steps taken by the Government of India and the State Governments for the uplift of agricultural and other labour of rural areas. I may, however, add that this is a matter primarily for the State Governments.

**श्री बाल्मीकी :** किन किन प्रदेशों में मिनिमम वॉजेज कमेटियां बनाई गई हैं और उनमें से किन किन ने अपनी रिपोर्ट गवर्नमेंट के सामने पेश की है ?

**[Shri Balmiki:** In which States have the minimum wage committees been appointed and which of them have submitted their reports to the Government?]

**Shri V. V. Giri:** The Government of India have been in constant touch with the State Governments and the State Governments have appointed Advisory Committees and they have sent some tentative reports, and as soon as all the reports are with us, we shall certainly place it for the information of the Members.

**श्री बाल्मीकी :** खेतिहर मजदूरों की कम से कम मजदूरी निर्धारित करने के लिए उन कमेटियों का क्या सुझाव है ?

**[Shri Balmiki:** What recommendation has been made by those Committees with respect to the fixation of a minimum wage for agricultural labour?]

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I would invite the hon. Member to read the report that is

placed on the Table of the House, and if the hon. Member, thereafter, puts me questions, I shall be able to give additional information.

**Shri G. B. Khedkar:** May I know whether these rates will be uniform labour rates or different according to categories of labour, such as wheat and rice, etc.?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** It depends upon the circumstances and the various States have to go into the details of these matters and fix a minimum wage rates.

**Shri Veeraswamy:** May I know why not the Central Government of India enforce the Minimum Wages Act in the whole of India?

**Mr. Speaker:** He need not reply to that question.

### पटसन (निर्यात)

\*२००. श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) उन देशों के नाम जिन्हें मई १९५१ से मई १९५२ तक के समय में पटसन भेजा गया,

(ख) भारत के बाहर पटसन के सामान की मांग कैसी है, और

(ग) उक्त माँग को देखते हुये पटसन के सामान की किस्म में सुधार करने के लिये क्या प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं ?

### JUTE (EXPORT)

[\*200. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries to which jute was exported during the period May, 1951 to May, 1952;

(b) the demand for jute goods outside India; and

(c) what efforts are being made to improve the quality of jute goods in view of this demand?]

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):**

(a) No raw jute was permitted for export.

(b) The demand for jute goods outside India varies from year to year. It depends on several factors, such as, the size of crops in the main grain producing countries, the movement of foodgrains in the world, the extent of bulk packing, availability of other packing materials and the price of such materials in comparison with the price of jute bags. Subject to these, the demand for jute goods outside India would be about 1,300,000 tons to 1,500,000 tons.

(c) The quality of Indian jute goods has been generally accepted as good. Continuous research on the subject is being carried on in the laboratories of the Indian Jute Mills Association.

**श्री बाल्मीकी :** क्या यह सच है कि अमरीका ने भारतीय जूट के लिये आर्डर देना बन्द कर दिया है, और अगर हाँ तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

[**Shri Balmiki:** Is it a fact that America has stopped placing orders for Indian jute and if so, what are the reasons therefor?]

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** There has undoubtedly been a slowing down of demand from the United States as well as from other parts of the world, partly due to stock piling. As I said in reply to another question in this House one section of purchasers in the U.S.A. namely, the United States Army Corps had placed orders for hessian and bags with people in Europe, because the price differential was operating against us on account of our export duty. That defect has now been remedied and it is understood that orders from such sources will ultimately come to India.

**Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** May I know whether there is any demand for jute goods from the U.S.S.R. and China?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** So far as any trade on a Government to Government basis with U.S.S.R. is concerned, it has been on the basis of barter. For whatever we wanted, we gave something in return and sometimes that happened to be in jute goods. I have no information with regard to the demand from China.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether, if there is a demand, we are prepared to supply to China.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. That would be hypothetical.